MIDLANDS
THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE
ZONE
THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE + CLUBBING GUIDE
ISSUE 219 £1.80 JULY 2015
INSIDE
SAMANTHA MUMBA
THE 'GOTTA TELL YOU' STAR HEAD TO THE MIDLANDS
GOING BARNUM WITH BRIAN
WE TALK TO BRIAN CONLEY ABOUT BARNUM, THE CIRCUS SPECTACULAR!
SUMMER OF PRIDE
12 PAGE GUIDE TO LGBT EVENTS
TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR PANTS!
THIS SUMMER'S HOTTEST UNDERWEAR TO PARADE AT PRIDE!
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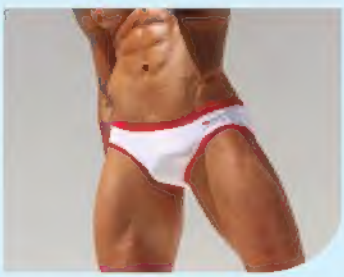
30 
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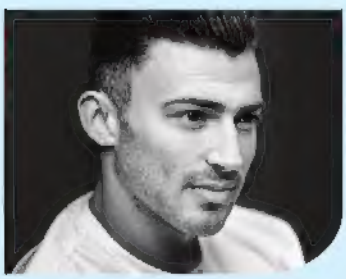
20 
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The Midlands news website for the LGBT community

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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

It's summer! Hurrah! Welcome to the July edition of Midlands Zone. We've got a great issue for you to digest, so once you've finished here, have a flick through and check what else is happening on and around the region's ever-exciting gay scene...

Ryan x

The Summer of Pride is now upon us...

You should finally have recovered from Birmingham Pride now (I think I have, anyway), but the LGBT festival fun doesn't need to stop. There's a whole season of Pride events coming up over the next couple of months, including L Fest, Stoke-on-Trent Pride and Nottinghamshire Pride.

We've compiled a handy feature to give you the low-down on what's what, when and where. So all you need to worry about is turning up, having fun and partying the night away!

Grass not greener...

Remember, though, folks, Pride events shouldn't just be about the party. Remember why we still need to hold them. There's a lot left to be done for the LGBT community, both in the UK and abroad.

And if any more evidence were needed that there's still work to be done, it surely comes in the form of the recent United Nation's statement that LGBT people are victims of "pervasive violent abuse, harassment and discrimination" in all regions of the world. Living in a society here in the UK that's made so much progress in terms of equality, it's hard to get your head round the fact that there are corners of the world where life for the gay community is at best miserable and at worst downright dangerous. The UK has its faults, sure, but the other man's grass is unlikely to be greener...

A worthy cause...

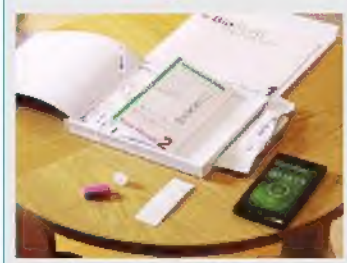
Check out our Community section and you'll see that one of our stories concerns the Birmingham LGBT Centre. The centre is currently making a plea to the community for financial assistance - and I'm certainly hoping that those of you who're in a position to do so will be as happy as I am to hand over some cash to help out. I'm sure we're all in agreement that Birmingham LGBT is providing a truly invaluable service, but the reality is that the centre itself costs a not-insignificant £633 per day to run.

What's Hot!

Sense8: The hottest new show on Netflix!

Netflix's new original TV show Sense8 has been causing a stir across the world since its release, particularly in terms of its commitment to diversity in gender and sexuality. The sex scenes in it are pretty darn hot too. We recommend you check it out at some point...

A great response to HIV home-testing...



Since the legalisation of HIV home-testing, manufacturers of the testing kits, BioSure, have said there's been an overwhelming response. This is great news!

What's Not!

British Embassies told not to fly rainbow flag

Although last month was Pride Month, British Embassies around the world were told not to fly the rainbow flag, as the Union flag must always take priority. Apparently it's policy, but we think it's just a load of rubbish!

activate

Relax and Refresh at The Rezza!

Saturday 25th July

Fun and fitness afternoon starting at Edgbaston Reservoir

FREE Led cycle rides for all abilities - circular routes of varying lengths supported by qualified cycling instructors. Book a free bike if you don't have your own.

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pennybarber@blgbt.org 0121 643 0821

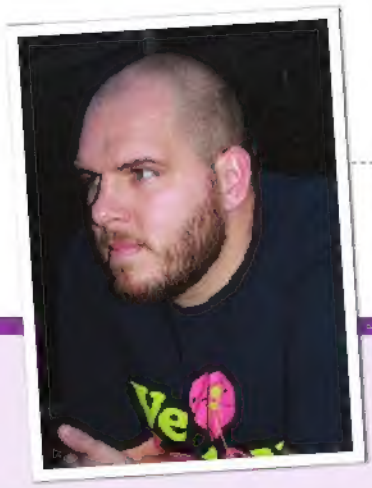
Project Partners include:-
Midlands Out Badminton, Moseley Shoals Swim Group, Birmingham Bluefins Water Polo, Birmingham Blaze Football Team, Birmingham Bulls Rugby Team, Boot Women (walking), Birmingham Swifts (running), Same Sex Strictly, Outdoor Lads, Bimringham City Council & University of Birmingham Sport.

SPORT ENGLAND

birmingham lgbt

www.blgbt.org 0121 643 0821

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus. B1 1EQ



Dan Walker

Chesterfield Pride Co-Organiser
Chesterfield

Born: **Derby**
Star sign: **Cancer**
Age: **35**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This issue our focus turns on Dan Walker, co-organiser for the Chesterfield Pride festival.

About Dan

Where did you grow up?
I was brought up in Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Single or attached?
I'm attached.

What makes you happy?
Seeing other people happy.

What makes you sad?
Social inequality. I think that everyone should be able to have the same chances in life.

What makes you angry?
I get angry seeing that we still have a long way to go battling homophobia, racism and sexism.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
I wish I wasn't so opinionated. I think I could argue about almost anything!

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?
Thinking it would be fun, I lay naked on the sofa, only for the window cleaner to appear out of nowhere!

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?
You should never say never!

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?
When I was in my teens. I think I was about 14 or 15.

When did you come out?
I came out in two stages. The first was when I was 17, to my friends, and then a few years later, at the age of 21, to my family.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?
There were very few people who knew that I was gay whilst at school. I was into all the usual stuff, like football and other sports.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?
A friend at college. Their reaction was simply, "Oh, fair enough".

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?
Confide in close friends and get some help and advice.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?
Yes, I've had a couple of close encounters with women. But I think sexuality is pretty fluid anyway.

Chesterfield Pride

This month sees the first ever Chesterfield Pride taking place. What were the motivations for starting a Pride in the town?
We've seen other towns and cities across the country host their own Pride events. Chesterfield's a pretty big town and we thought it'd be fantastic to have one as well. It's that simple!

The event takes place this month. How has it been received by Chesterfield's LGBT community?
It's been great! We couldn't have wished for better support. We feel like Chesterfield Pride isn't just for the town - all the surrounding areas are getting behind it too.

What have you got in store at Chesterfield Pride?
We have a day of celebration planned. There's going to be a main stage with some fabulous acts performing, including Andy Scott-Lee, Kelly Llorenna, Angie Brown, Jason Prince and Stacey Jackson, to name but a few. There's going to be a number of community stalls and information points, as well as bars and food. The event is family-friendly, so we've got a children's area where there'll be face painting, a bouncy castle and a small farm to help keep the little Pridesters content throughout the day.

What's the biggest challenge you face in organising Chesterfield Pride?
I think one of the biggest things we've found is the scale of the event. We never expected the response we've received! A couple of other things are the cost implications and the fundraising that goes along with it.

It's early days yet, but how rewarding has it been to organise Chesterfield Pride?
It's been very rewarding, but I guess it will only really sink in after the event. Our focus at the moment is just to put on the best Pride we can.

Where would you like to see Chesterfield Pride in five years' time?
We'd love to see the event grow. We're running Chesterfield Pride with sustainability in mind and we aim to grow naturally. Chesterfield is in a great catchment area, just off the M1. As a result of its central location, the festival will be a great draw for the surrounding areas.

Your Career

Away from Chesterfield Pride, what do you do for a living?
I have two careers. I'm a DJ and run a club night called i-CANDY at Groove in Chesterfield. Away from the DJing, I work in retail for Harvey Nichols.

When you were younger, what did you want to be?
I can't quite remember but I think it was a footballer.

What was your first job after leaving school?
When I left school, I became a chef.

We've all got a dream job - what's yours?
Any job where I can make a difference. Anything that will make others happy.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?
I've been going out on the gay scene for about fifteen years now.

And what's been your fondest memory of the gay scene?
It would have to be the first time I walked into a gay club and experienced the feeling that I fitted in.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?
I've seen so many different cabaret acts over the years, I don't think I could single out any one act.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

That would have to be my best friend, Jon. We've worked together on a number of different projects over the last ten to twelve years and we're always on the same wavelength.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

The diversity, definitely. There are so many different aspects to it - from the different club nights, different drag queens, different cabaret acts to the different sub cultures - like the bear scene, for example.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

The scene is forever changing. It's forever evolving. It's far more mixed than it used to be. It's great to see people of all sexual persuasions clubbing together, regardless of who they are or what their background is.

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

I'd like to encourage the bar and club owners to move on with the times and embrace change.

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

It's very rare that I'd have a weekend off, but, if I do, I tend to whisk my other half away on a mini-break.

What do you do to relax?

I love travelling, eating out and spending quality time with my boyfriend.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I love watching my soaps! Emmerdale and Coronation Street. I also love a bit of Gogglebox, MKR and a few comedies.

What was the last album or track you bought?

The Desired Effect by Brandon Flowers. It's a great album.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

Facebook.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

I love to get away with my closest friends to spend a few nights partying, and chilling for the rest of it.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Tom Hanks.

What's your favourite book?

Sailing Close To The Wind, by Dennis Skinner.

Half empty or half full?

Always half full.

What's your favourite food?

Spanish.

And how about your favourite drink?

It's either a Mojito or a vodka and Diet Coke.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna, but I'm not a massive fan of either.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

My dad. He's always been my inspiration.

Check out our preview of the inaugural Chesterfield Pride festival, which takes place on Sunday 26 July at Queen's Park, in our Summer of Pride supplement on page 24!

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What's On
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We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

PRIDE Midlands LGBT community gears up for a busy summer of local Pride festivals

With Birmingham Pride having kicked off the Midlands Pride season back in May, the region's LGBT community is now gearing itself up for plenty more local festivals over the next few months.

Gloucestershire Pride took place in June, bringing together a colourful parade and plenty of entertainment.

Kicking off this month's Pride festivals is Warwickshire Pride on Saturday 4 July (at the Pump Room Gardens in Leamington Spa).

The UK's biggest gay women's festival, L Fest, takes place between Friday the 17th and Monday the 20th at Uttoxeter Racecourse in Staffordshire. Headline acts include girl group Stooshe and lesbian X Factor finalist Lucy Spraggan.

Next up is Stoke-on-Trent Pride, which returns to Hanley's Northwood Park on Saturday 18 July. The one-day festival features headline performances from hunky I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! star Jake Quickenden and Pride favourite Angie Brown. The event is hosted by RuPaul's Drag Race UK Ambassador, The Vivienne.

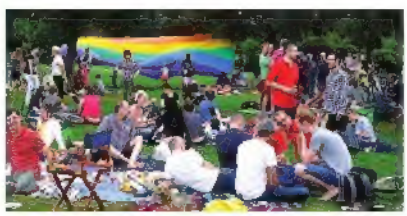
New for 2015 is Chesterfield Pride. Interest in this debuting LGBT event has been high, according to its organisers. The festival takes place on Sunday 26 July at the town's Queen's Park, with acts including Kelly Llorenna and Andy Scott-Lee.

Early August sees the return of Family Pride, which takes place at Barnswood Scout Camp in Staffordshire between Friday the 7th and Monday the 10th.

Shrewsbury's Pink Picnic returns on Saturday the 8th.

For a full rundown of Pride events in the Midlands - and special previews of the events mentioned above - check out our Summer Of Pride feature on page 13.

EVENTS Date announced for Birmingham Pink Picnic 2015



Organisers of Birmingham's annual Pink Picnic have announced that the event is set to return to the city in the autumn.

The picnic takes place at Kings Heath Park on Sunday 13 September. Organisers are keen to make it clear that everyone's welcome to attend - so whether you're single, married, have kids or dogs, feel free to pop along and soak up the atmosphere. And don't forget to pack your hamper with the odd cheeky treat - if you can't enjoy the guilty pleasure of a mini pork pie or four during a summertime picnic with friends, then when can you?

For more information, visit www.blgbt.org or call 0121 643 0821.

RELIGION Gay Canon in Church discrimination tribunal

An employment tribunal has heard that a gay Nottingham clergyman, barred from working because he married his same-sex partner, did not go against the Church's teachings, reports BBC News.

The then acting bishop of Southwell and Nottingham refused Canon Jeremy Pemberton a licence to work as a hospital chaplain.

According to The Rt Revd Richard Inwood, the marriage was against the Church of England's teachings.

The Canon was employed by the NHS, but needed a licence from the diocese to work at a Mansfield hospital, which was refused.

During the opening of the hearing in Nottingham, his lawyer said that "equality has reached the door of the Church. Where that boundary lies is for you to decide".

It was suggested by Thomas Linden QC, who represented the Church, that Mr Pemberton had gone against the Church's teachings.

Mr Pemberton, who is in a civil marriage, believed that it was the moral thing to do.

The Church argued that its doctrine makes clear that those in holy orders cannot enter into a same-sex marriage, as the Church still sees marriage as between a man and woman.

Mr Pemberton, who still works as a chaplain for an NHS trust in Lincolnshire, is arguing that the bishop unlawfully discriminated against him under the Equality Act in refusing the licence.

ENTERTAINMENT Gay favourite air hostess Pam Ann to fly into Birmingham for one night only

Comedy air hostess Pam Ann will be flying into Birmingham for a one-off show in November, it's been announced.

The gay-scene favourite, who's the alter-ego of Australian comedian Caroline Reid, will appear at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre in her latest show, Pam Ann: Queen Of The Skies.

According to the New Alex website: 'The world's favourite international air hostess, Pam Ann is back in the UK with a new show for 2015. Pam Ann's caustic wit knows no boundaries, so fasten your seatbelts and prepare for take-off - she's Queen of the Sky and it's guaranteed to be a turbulent flight.

'Hilarious, often shocking and totally politically incorrect, Pam Ann keeps things lively and nail-bitingly unpredictable as she takes off her pristine white gloves and delivers an unrelenting barrage of shoot-from-the-lip observations.'

Pam Ann: Queen Of The Skies shows at the New Alexandra Theatre on Thursday 19 November.

Tickets are available now from www.atgtickets.com

EXHIBITION New visual arts show explores the 'gay gardeners' phenomenon

A first UK solo exhibition by artist Gemma Marmalade, in partnership with Birmingham Open Media and Birmingham Pride Festival, is currently on display in the city.

The exhibition, entitled Green Fingered, explores the possibility that those of homosexual persuasion are more likely to have a visceral impact on the cultivation of plants.

During studies of communal lesbian gardeners throughout the 1970s, German botanist Dr Gerda Haeckel observed accelerated growth, crop abundance and overall increased vegetational health.

Green Fingered investigates the territory of this research and visually interprets its findings through a series of specially commissioned artworks.

The show explores how research in the medical and social sciences has to date focused on trying to identify genetic and psychological traits relating to sexuality. At a time when research continues to find the 'gay gene', Green Fingered coalesces aspects of gender and cultural studies with biological science through provocative visual experimentation.

The exhibition shows at BOM (Birmingham Open Media), 1 Dudley Street, Birmingham, until 29 August, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10.30am to 5pm.

SCENE Second annual Dance Arena event to take place in Birmingham's gay village

Next month sees the return of the Birmingham gay scene's annual Dance Arena event, held over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The all-day dance party takes place from 2pm till midnight on Bromsgrove Street (next to the Loft Lounge) on Saturday 29 August. It features a stellar line-up of DJing talent, including Tchami, Cause & Affect, Chris Lorenzo, Artful Dodger, Tom Zanetti & Tom Garnett, and Marc Spence.

The event also features face painters, firebreathers, angle grinders, confetti cannons, a light show and dancers.

The Dance Arena event is followed by an official afterparty at the Nightingale Club, from midnight right through till the early hours of the morning.

NATIONAL NEWS

SOCIAL LGBTs are victims of 'violent abuse', says UN human rights chief

The United Nations human rights chief has said in a new report that lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people are victims of "pervasive violent abuse, harassment and discrimination" in all regions of the world, reports The Guardian.

According to the newspaper: 'The high commissioner for human rights, Zeid Raad al-Hussein, said actions by some countries to reduce violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity since the last report in 2011 have been overshadowed by continuing human rights violations against these groups, too often perpetrated with impunity.'

HEALTH Provision of PrEP cost-effective for gay men in the UK who're at high risk of HIV

A cost-effectiveness model of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for gay men has found that providing PrEP from 2016 onwards will be cost-effective if gay men continue to test for HIV at the current rate, reports Aidsmap.

According to the website: 'In this base-case scenario, PrEP would cost £9,466 for each additional healthy life year gained (quality-adjusted life year or QALY), compared with not introducing PrEP.'

ENTERTAINMENT Sir Ian McKellen reveals coming out made him a better actor

Sir Ian McKellen wishes he'd come out earlier because doing so has made him a better actor, reports the Daily Mail.

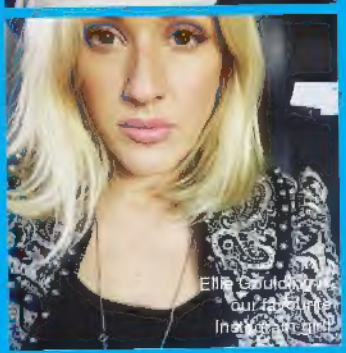
According to the newspaper: 'The 76-year-old star said that he had been using acting as a 'disguise' to hide his sexuality and that he was ashamed of who he was.'

THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

SNAP HAPPY!

Our favourite pictures from Instagram...



We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

Lady Gaga covers iconic John Lennon song Imagine

It'll leave you seriously breathless...

Known for her engaging eccentricity and outlandish outfits, Lady Gaga blew minds at the opening of the 2015 European Games in Baku, taking to the stage wearing all white to perform a superb cover of John Lennon's iconic single, Imagine. Gaga really made the lyrics her own, and we're confident the song will send shivers down your spine and take your breath away. Seriously, it's incredible! Watch it here: youtu.be/q3ues1stefk

WATCH THIS! The best video we've been watching this month...

A few months back we featured all-male acapella group Out Of The Blue with a compilation of Shakira songs. Well now they're back with their latest charity single. The Oxford University boys this time diva it out to Lady Marmalade - and it's positively camp! So sit back, enjoy the ride and perhaps channel your inner diva along with them. youtu.be/zvLHBLDUkE8

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XBIZ AWARDS

UK LGBT EVENTS 2015

Here's our extensive list of UK Pride events. Whichever you choose to attend, we hope you have an awesome time!

July

Warwickshire Pride
Sat 4 July
Pump Room Gardens
warwickshirepride.co.uk

Sparkle
Fri 10 July
Sackville Gardens Manchester
sparkle.org.uk

Bourne Free Pride
Fri 10 July
The Bandstand Bournemouth
bournefree.co.uk

Bristol Pride
Sat 11 July
Castle Park
pridebristol.co.uk

Essex Pride
Sun 12 July
Central Park Chelmsford
essexpride.org

Newcastle Pride
Fri 17 - Sun 19 July
Exhibition Park
northern-pride.co.uk

L Fest
Fri 17 - Mon 20 July
Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire
lfest.co.uk

Hull Pride
Sat 18 July
Baker Street Hull
prideinhull.co.uk

Stoke On Trent Pride
Sat 18 July
Northwood Park, Hanley
stokeontrentpride.org.uk

Nottinghamshire Pride
Sat 25 July
Lace Market Square
nottinghamshirepride.co.uk

Norwich Pride
Sat 25 July
The Forum
norwichpride.co.uk

Brighton Dog Pride
Sun 26 July
Hove Recreation Ground
brightonpride.org/pride_dog_show

Chesterfield Pride
Sun 26 July
Queens Park
chesterfieldpride.co.uk

Peel Park Pink Picnic
Sun 26 July
Peel Park, Salford
peelparkpicnic.org.uk

August

Liverpool Pride
Sat 1 August
Liverpool Pier Head
liverpoolpride.co.uk

Brighton Pride
Sat 1 August
Madeira Drive/Preston Park
brighton-pride.org

Leeds Pride
Sun 2 August
Lower Briggate
leedspride.com

Family Pride
Fri 7 August
Barnswood Scout Camp, Leek, Staffordshire
familypride.co.uk

Swindon & Wiltshire Pride
Sat 8 August
Town Gardens, Quarry Rd
swindonwiltshirepride.co.uk

Wakefield Pride
Sun 9 August
Warren Gate
wakefieldpride.org

Bicon Convention
Thurs 13 - Sun 16 August
Nottingham University Park Campus
2015.bicon.org.uk

Cymru Pride
Sat 15 August
Coopers Fields
pridecymru.co.uk

Manchester Pride
Sat 29 August
Manchester
manchesterpride.com

Cornwall Pride
Sat 29 August
Truro Lemon Quay
cornwallpride.com

Kent Pride
Sat 29 August
Margate Main Sands
facebook.com/kentpride2015

Walsall Pride
Sat 29 August
Gallery Square
walsallpride.org

September

Leicester Pride
Sat 5 September
Victoria Park
leicesterpride.com

Reading Pride
Sat 5 September
King's Meadow Park
readingpride.co.uk

Worcester Pride
Sat 12 September
Worcester
worcesterpride.org

Sunderland Pride
Sat 26 September
Civic Centre, Sunderland
sunderlandpride.com

Lincoln Pride
Sun 27 September
City Square
lincolnpride.co.uk

October

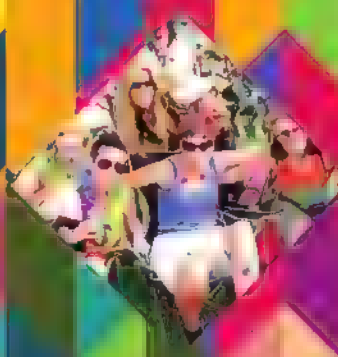
Chester Pride
Sat 3 October
Castle Square
chesterpride.co.uk

Rainbow Film Festival
Fri 16 - Sun 18 October
Old Music Hall & The Hive Shrewsbury
rainbowfestival.org.uk

MIDLANDS ZONE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY PRIDE SEASON!

SUMMER OF PRIDE

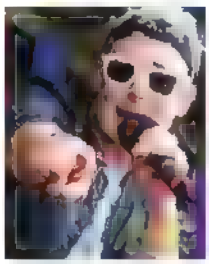
12 PAGE GUIDE TO LGBT EVENTS

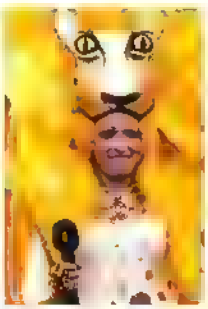


Gloucestershire Pride: A very happy 10th anniversary!

Last month saw Gloucestershire's annual Pride festival and parade make a welcome return - on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

Hundreds of people turned up to watch the colourful parade make its way through the city's streets to Gloucester Park, where a day of family-friendly fun and awesome activities awaited. Organisers of the event hailed it one of the biggest and busiest Gloucestershire Pride events ever.





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SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2015. VICTORIA PARK

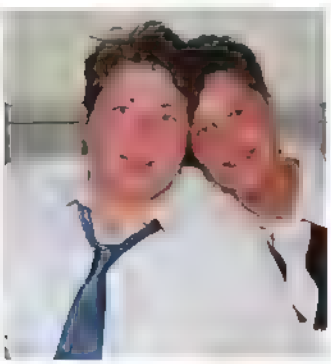
SUMMER OF PRIDE

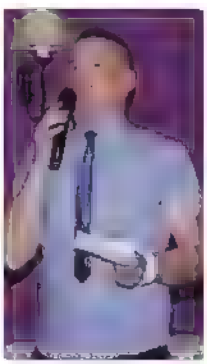
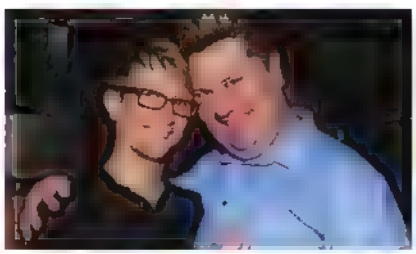
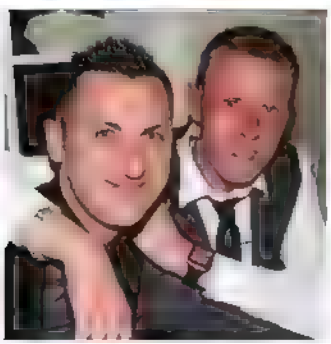
Third Walsall Pride Ball raises funds for town's August festival

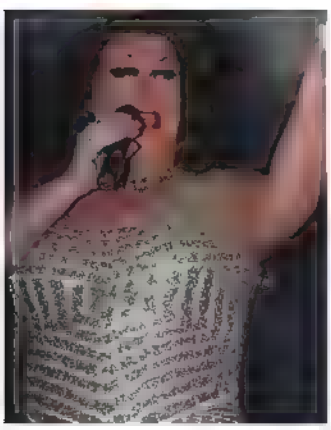
Back for its third year, Walsall's very own Pride Ball took place at local restaurant Arbor Lights last month.

The evening featured an a la carte three-course meal and entertainment from some fabulous local cabaret stars.

The event was attended by over one hundred people and raised more than £1,000 for Walsall Pride, which takes place on Saturday 29 August in the town's Gallery Square.





Pictures by Kate's Photography

Walsall Pride

SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2015

August Bank Holiday - Gallery Sqaure, Walsall

To get the latest iformation visit

www.walsallpride.org

The Lion Bar & Club

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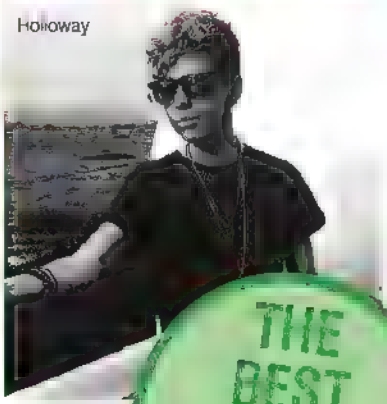
SUMMER OF PRIDE

L Fest: The UK's favourite lesbian festival returns for 2015!

Friday 17 - Monday 20 July

Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

www.lfest.co.uk



Since making its debut on the Midlands' gay events calendar in 2011, L Fest has grown beyond imagination to become one of the UK lesbian scene's most popular get-togethers. Not only that, but as a warm-up to the event, L Fest travels over to Spain once a year for L Fest Del Mar - a sunny and more relaxed version of the UK festival.

This fun-filled four-dayer offers a fantastic range of entertainment, with live music, comedy, sport, arts and workshops all featuring.

There are camping areas available for groups and solos, and organisers pride themselves on ensuring everyone is catered for - including families.

Headlining acts for this year's music stages are hot girl group Stooshe and the incredible Lucy Spraggan.

There are also appearances from Greymatter, Holloway and Lou Whatling to enjoy. In total, the festival is hosting more than sixty different acts and performances.

Visit www.lfest.co.uk to check out the full line-up.

L Fest takes place from Friday 17 to Monday 20 July at Uttoxeter Racecourse in Staffordshire. Tickets are now available online.

LIVE. LIFE. LAUGH. LOVE. LADIES

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@LFESTEVENTS

DIVA PRETTY PINK PEARL

SUMMER OF PRIDE

Jake Quickenden headlines **Stoke-on-Trent Pride**

Saturday 18 July
Northwood Park,
Stoke-on-Trent
www.stokeontrentpride.org.uk

Jake Quickenden

Ryan Jagger

Stoke-on-Trent Pride has been a firm fixture on the Midlands LGBT calendar for the last nine years.

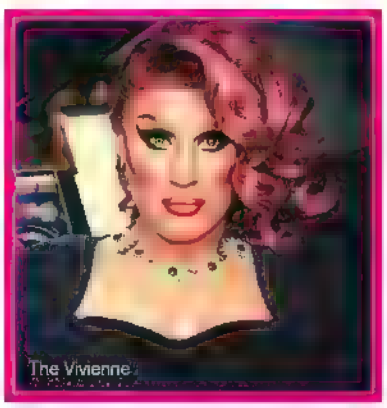
Staged in the beautiful Victorian setting of Northwood Park, the event shows the city's residents just how fabulous Stoke's LGBT community really is!

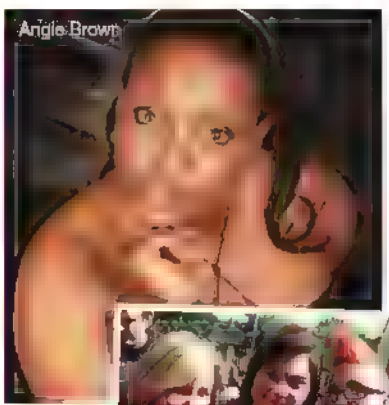
The festival is run solely by volunteers and funded by sponsors, fundraising events and bucket collections. The organisers look to make the event bigger and better each year – and boy, have they ever achieved their aim with this year's one-day festival of fun!

The 2015 line-up of entertainers includes hunky X Factor star Jake Quickenden, girl group IV Rox, Dan Budd as Robbie Williams, Kelly Wilde, Roz Ria and Angie Brown. RuPaul's Drag Race UK Ambassador The Vivienne hosts the whole event alongside local drag queen Candy Fierce.

There's a whole host of community and market stalls to browse around too, as well as some great food suppliers for when you get peckish!

Stoke-on-Trent Pride takes place on Saturday 18 July at Northwood Park in Stoke-on-Trent.


The Vivienne


Angie Brown

Crowds enjoy the entertainment at a sunny Stoke-on-Trent Pride

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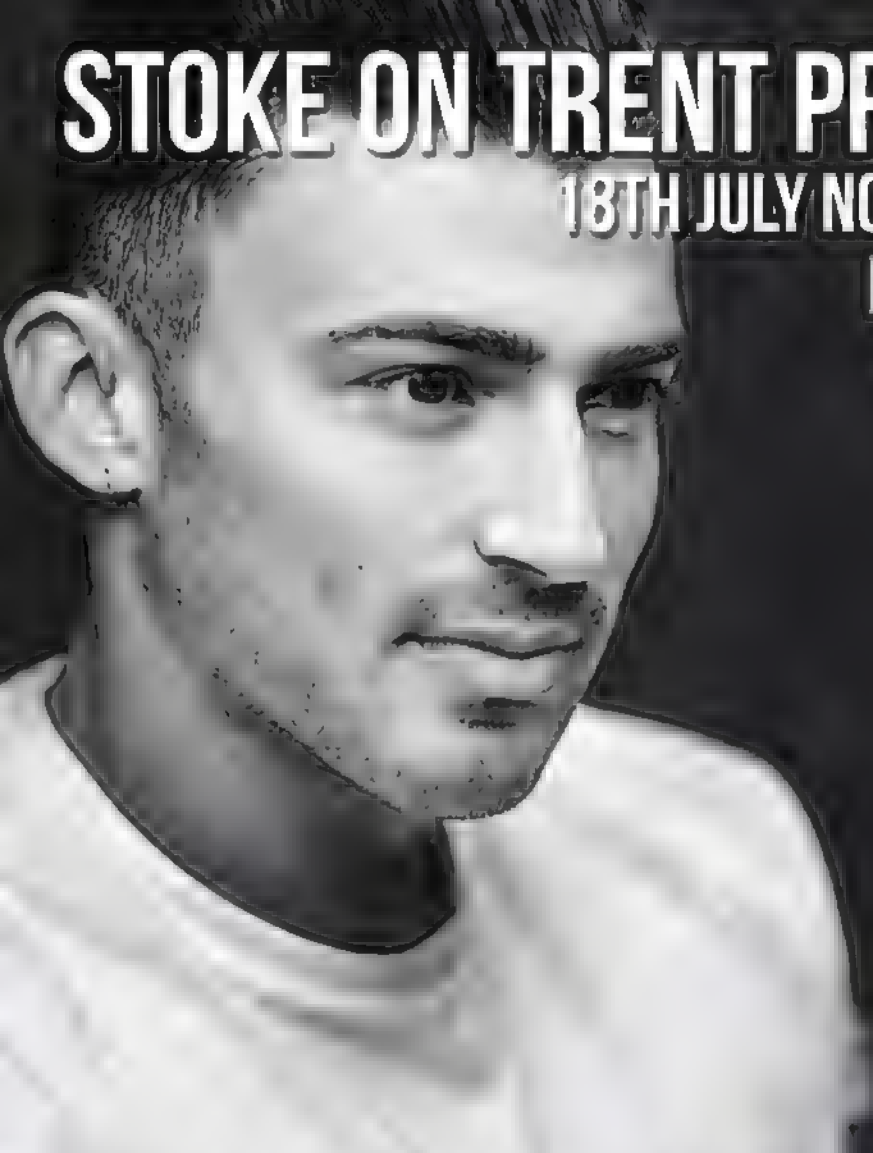

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JAKE QUICKENDEN

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STOKE ON TRENT PRIDE

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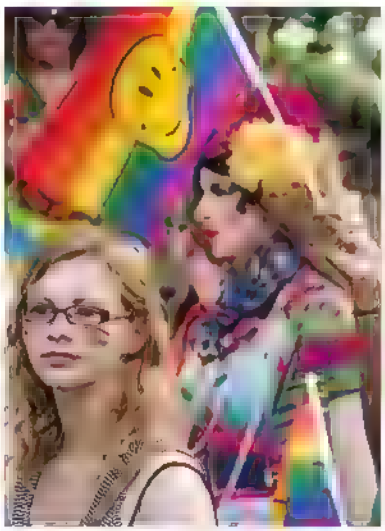
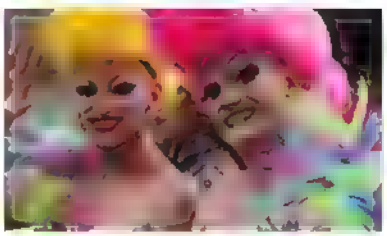
Celebrating LGBT diversity at **Nottinghamshire Pride**

Saturday 25 July

Lace Market Square, Nottingham

www.nottinghamshirepride.co.uk





Even though it's been scaled down this year, Nottinghamshire Pride is back with a bang and promising a great day out.

The festival kicks off with a march from Castlegate (starting at 11.30am) through the city's streets to Hockley. The day's entertainment begins at noon in the Lace Market Square. Main Stage entertainment comes in the shape of live music and a competition to find the county's best drag kings and queens

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NewState Music

Chesterfield Pride: A brand new LGBT festival for the town

Sunday 26 July

Queen's Park, Chesterfield

www.chesterfieldpride.co.uk

We love it when a brand new Pride festival comes to town - so we're naturally excited about Chesterfield Pride, taking its bow at the end of this month!

Sunday 26 July sees the beautiful Queen s Park in Chesterfield transformed into a place of rainbows, equality, love, fun and entertainment

The festival s Main Stage hosts live music from some great acts, including Kelly Lorenna, Angie Brown, Kelly Wilde, Andy Scott Lee and Stacey Jackson

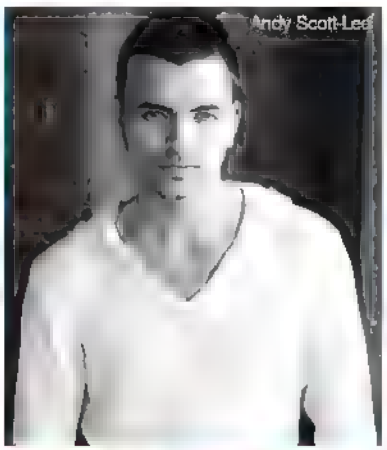
And there s no shortage of stalls around which to browse either as well as a number of food outlets and a licensed bar

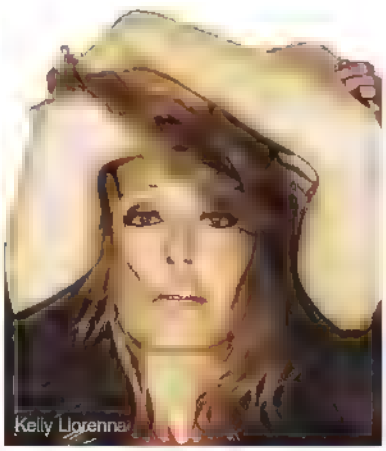
The event's great for families too, with a children's area helping to ensure the kids don t get bored!

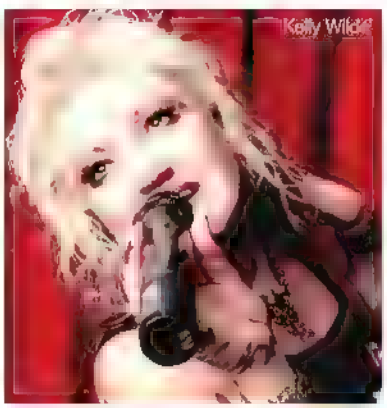
We reckon Chesterfield Pride s definitely got the look of an LGBT event that s going to make a significant impact Why not check out if we're right in our forecast by getting along there and sampling what s on offer?

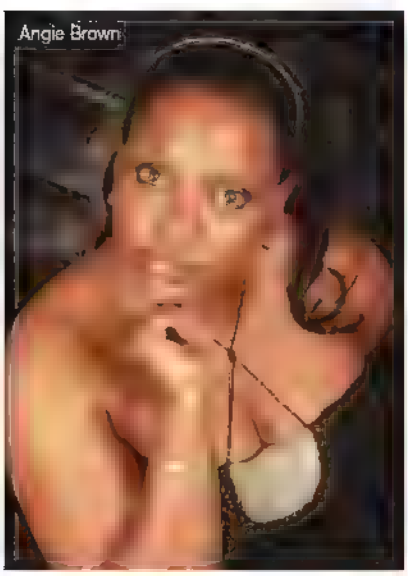
Whether you're straight or LGBT, you're very welcome

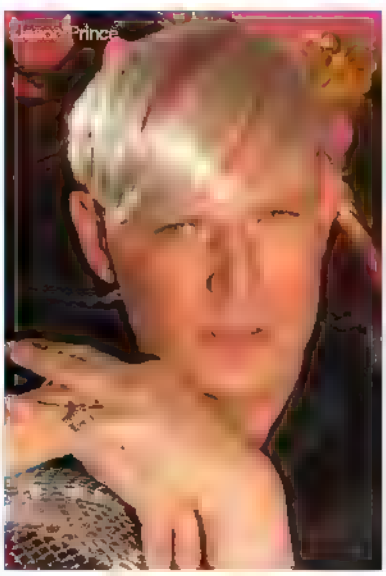
Chesterfield Pride takes place on Sunday 26 July at Queen's Park in Chesterfield.







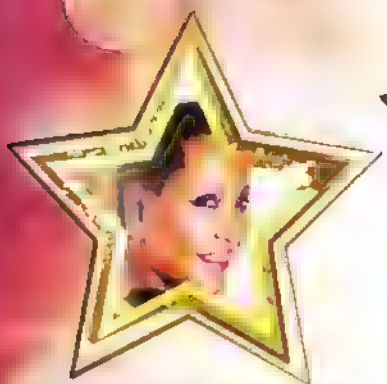




SUNDAY 26TH JULY

QUEEN'S PARK

Chesterfield PRIDE



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LINEUP SUBJECT TO CHANGE

BRIAN CONLEY

talks about bringing the circus to town in Barnum

What are the demands that come with playing Phineas Taylor Barnum, Brian?

It's renowned for being one of the toughest musical theatre roles in the business because there are so many strands to it – the acting, the singing, the comedy, the circus skills. There are many different things that need to be learned to enable you to play the part. And, of course, you're on stage all the time. But it's very rewarding to do. Sir Cameron Mackintosh doesn't do anything by halves.

How long did it take you to master walking the tightrope?

It's ongoing. It's one of those things that you think you've mastered – and then it rears up and bites you on the bum. I've got better as the months have passed, but initially it took six months. I used to go two or three times a week to a circus school in Camden, where I'd start off on a low tightrope about a foot off the ground – which they call the cheese cutter. I ended up breaking my finger on that. Even at a low height you can still hurt yourself – but over time, you progress. The tightrope in the show is seven foot high and ten foot across, and there's no safety net or wire attached to me.

So not an easy watch for the fainthearted

Too true – and that's how it should be. Everyone knows I'm not a professional tightrope walker, so they all sit there with their hearts in their mouths. If I fall off – which I do, and then get back up and do it again – it always gets a bigger cheer. First time round it's a bit 'Oh yeah – that's good', but if I fall off a couple of times, it makes people think I'm doing it on purpose to get the reaction – but I can assure you I always try to get across.

Have you had to up your insurance premium?

No, I can't get fully covered.

Did you have any reservations when Sir Cameron first approached you to play Barnum?

I knew it was going to be a tough gig. I'm not getting any younger, so it was something which, if I was going to do it, I had to do now.

When Midlands Zone recently spoke to Sir Cameron, he said this was probably your best performance since playing Jolson. Would you agree with that?

Yes. I would. It's in the same league as Jolson. You're very much out there all the time. You're leading the company, you're telling the story of this man. Jolson was a showman, an entertainer, and that's what Barnum is too.

And what characteristics, if any, do you share with Barnum?

I'm very much at ease talking to the audience, which Barnum does. I've always been an entertainer and always been capable of standing there on my own. You have to have a confidence in holding an audience. Knowing what I now know about Barnum, he must've had a real charm because he duped banks as well as the public. A lot of the big adventures he had, he never even put the money in himself. He managed to persuade banks to put up the money so that he could carry on with his dreams.

Was the story of Barnum one that you were familiar with before you were approached to star in the show?

I was very aware that he was the first entrepreneur – but playing him and reading about him and the things that he did was a real eye-opener. The reason he came up with the three-ring circus, which was very clever, was that not everyone got to see the show the first time. Every little theatre in the world has got Barnum to thank for what he did, because they were quite seedy places in the early 1800s. His aim was to bring in the masses and family audiences. He made them all sorts of palaces. We have Barnum to thank for that. In a way he was the first spin doctor, the way he manipulated the press for his own means.

You have some big hitters on your CV - Jolson, Fagin and Edna Turnblad included. How does this compare in terms of personal achievements?

I saw it many years ago with Michael Crawford in the title role and was blown away by it. Never did I think that one day I would play that part. It truly is the toughest gig I'll ever have to do. There's no other show where the end of the first half sees you walking across a tightwire, as well as being out there all of the time. It's physically demanding and you're very much steering the captain of the ship.

How will you follow up playing a role like Barnum?

I don't know, maybe I never will. I can't plan it. Nothing's ever planned. I would never have thought a couple of years ago that I'd be here playing Barnum. The same happened with Hairspray. I went to see the musical and thoroughly enjoyed it but never thought that one day I'd be playing Edna Turnblad. In this game we're all self-employed, so you take a job and see where it leads you. The only certainty after the Barnum tour finishes is me taking a very long holiday."

What has being part of the Barnum team taught you about yourself?

That I could learn a new skill at fifty-three. Prior to this, the most I've ever done is walk the dogs. I've learned that touring is tough. Being away from home is tough, but it's a wonderful honour to be part of this show, and to be headlining a production put on by Sir Cameron. Everyone aspires to work with him, and you know that the designers, the costumes, the orchestra are all at the very top level. Everyone wants to have working with Sir Cameron on their CV.

You're back at the Hippodrome. A bit of a homecoming?

Of course. It's always nice to be back there. It is, without doubt, one of the greatest theatres in the country. I can absolutely vouch for that. I've always loved performing at the Hippodrome. And I'm honoured to have starred there more times than any other artist since the theatre opened – or so I'm told.

So you'll be looking to have something named after you?

Oh, it would probably be a toilet.

You've been filming a brand new series for the BBC called TV That Made Me...

It will be out very shortly - probably when we're in Birmingham – or in the next month or so. Each episode has a celebrity guest and they tell me about their favourite telly. Things they love watching. Things that inspired them. Things that they watched as a family. Things that scared them. It's a bit like Desert Island Discs but for television. For forty-five minutes we get lost in their world, show clips from what they liked to watch, and I dish out trivia information about that particular show.

Has it been fun to do?

A lot of fun. I got the pilot idea through at Christmas and knew straight away it was something I wanted to be involved in. The BBC are really pleased with it. We're all looking forward to it being screened and seeing how it's received. It's a nostalgic look at television through the years, and every guest has a different point of view.

What were your favourite shows growing up?

I used to love watching Cilla Black. She used to be on on a Sunday night and I vividly remember watching her when I was a tiny little kid of about seven. I loved Watch With Mother with Andy Pandy, Bill And Ben and the Flower Pot Men. Then, when I was older, I'd love watching Captain Scarlet & The Mysterons and, later still, Coldtz.

And do you have a guilty pleasure on TV today?

I watch X Factor every now and again because the kids love watching it. I never get into any series because I'm constantly flitting all over the place, so don't have a regular schedule.

What are you looking to do after you've taken a holiday?

Who knows? I've never planned anything. You can't. You just see how it goes. I've got pantomime in Southend, so there's something there at the end of the year. I guess in between I'll be a dad for a while, which is something I enjoy. I'm looking forward to spending some time at home just pottering around.

No plans to go off and join the circus, then?

No. Been there, done that.

Brian Conley stars as Phineas Barnum at the **Birmingham Hippodrome** from Tuesday 7 July until Saturday 1 August.

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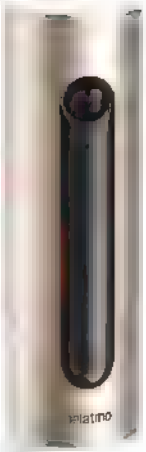

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With a stunning 4K display and maximized mobile performance, the 2-in-1 device can rotate its precision 360-degree hinge to go from laptop to tablet.

£TBC
www.toshiba.co.uk

04 Jawbone UP3

UP3 is one of the most advanced trackers you can buy. Featuring advanced activity, advanced sleep, food logging, Smart Coach and Heart Health.

£129.99
www.jawbone.co.uk

05 Apple iOS 9

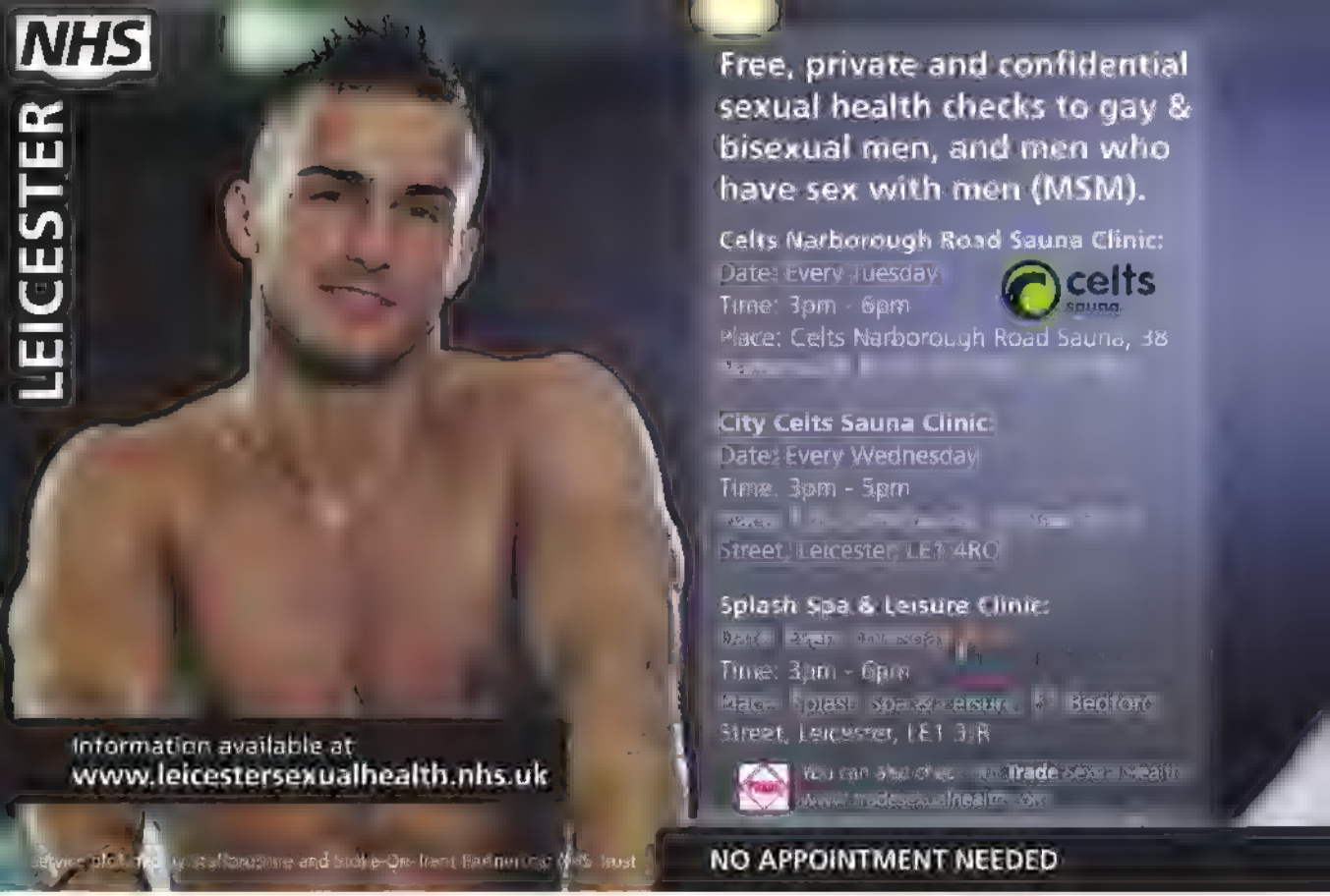
Everyone gets excited when there's a new version of iOS out - the operating system for the immensely popular iPhone and iPad. Well, iOS 9 has now been announced and will be available in September.

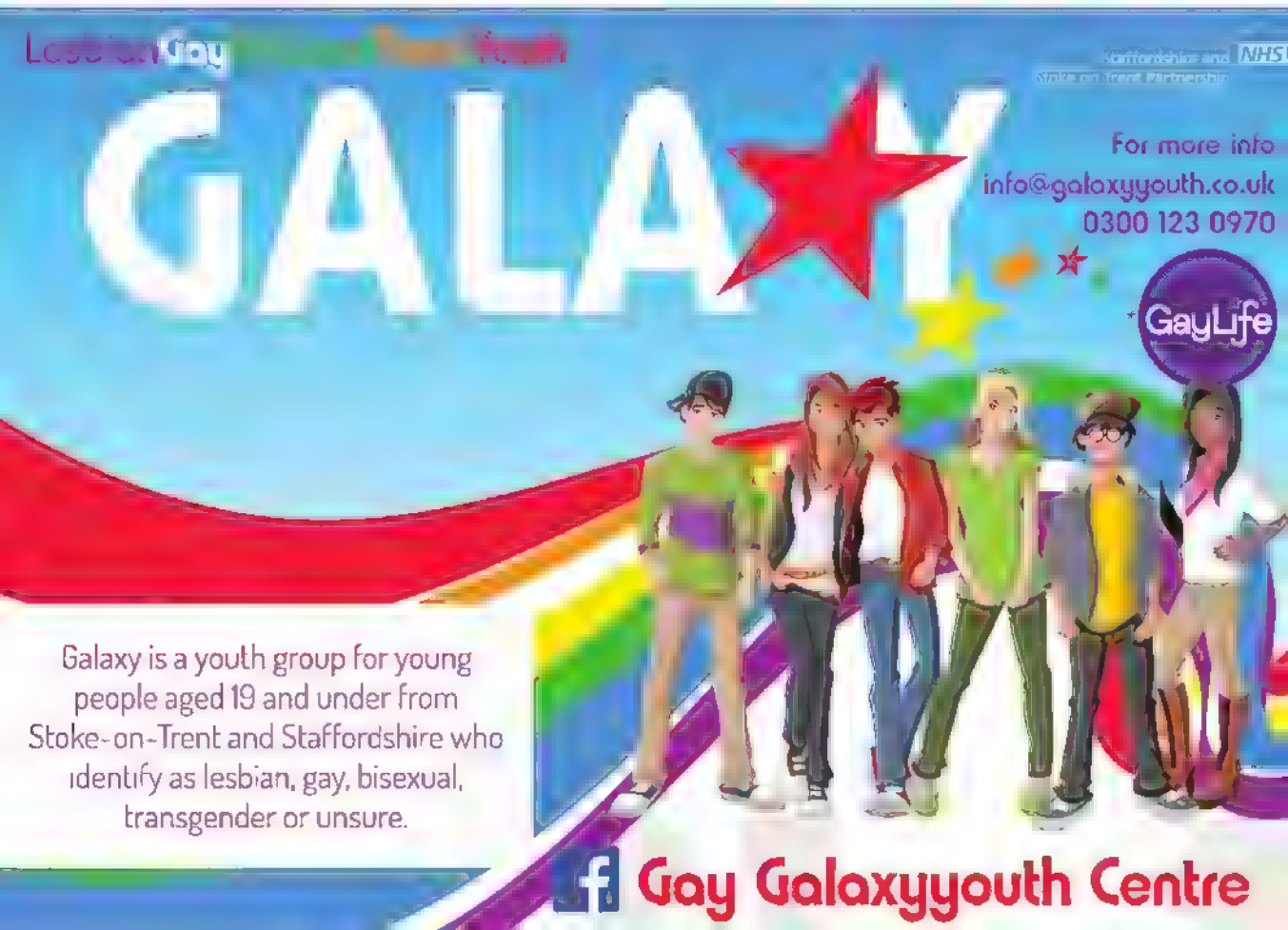
Free!
www.apple.com/uk

06 Microsoft Surface Pro 3

The new 12-inch Microsoft Surface Pro 3 is the best of a laptop and the best of a tablet - in one device. It's really light too, weighing in at just 798g.

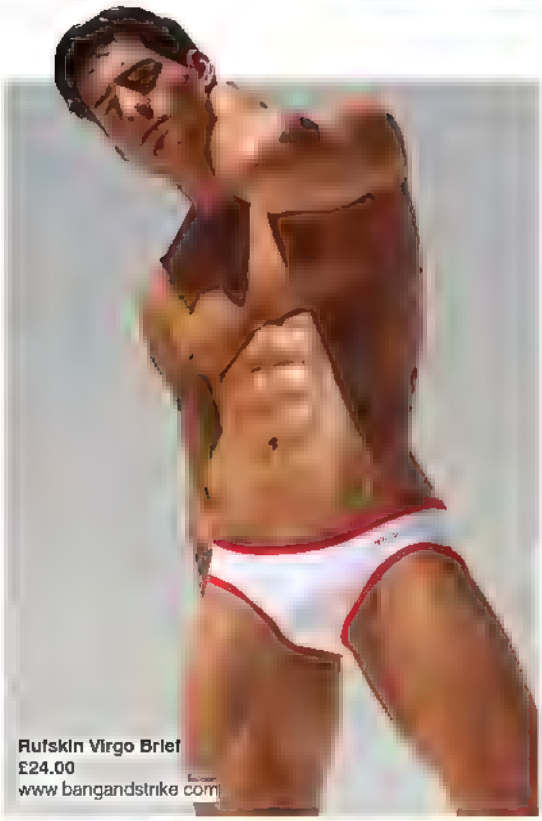
FREE
www.apple.com/uk


NHS
LEICESTER
Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).
Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:
Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: Celts Narborough Road Sauna, 38
celts sauna
City Celts Sauna Clinic:
Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ
Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Bedford
Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR
Trade
Information available at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED


Lesbian Gay
NHS
GALAXY
For more info
info@galaxyyouth.co.uk
0300 123 0970
GayLife
Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.
Gay Galaxyyouth Centre

take
PRIDE
in your
PANTS!
The best underwear
styles for the summer!
aussieBum Hitch
£9.76
www.aussieBum.com

Andrew Christian Pride Thong
£16.00
www.andrewchristian.com



Rufskin Virgo Brief
£24.00
www.bangandstrike.com

Medium Vivendi Slime Brief
£24.00
www.deadgoodunderwear.com

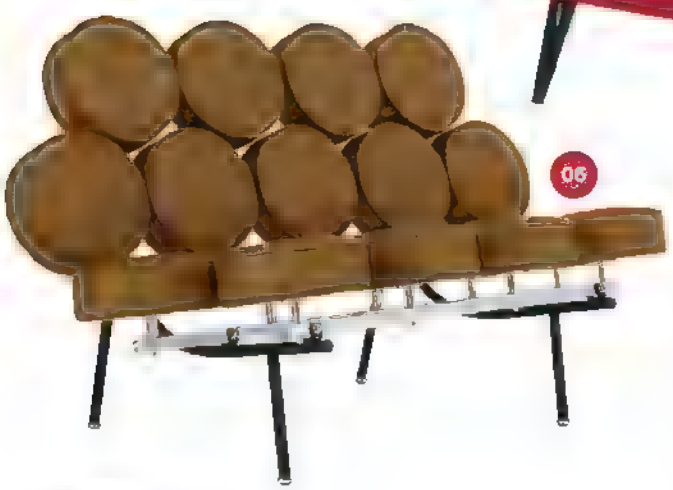
C IN 2 Hard Red Jock
£23.70
www.bangandstrike.com

Sukrew Joey Full Brief
£19.99
www.sukrew.com

Marco Marco Geo Spiral Mesh Brief
£27.99
EXCLUSIVE to www.clonezone.co.uk

William Wilde Madison Brief
£84.99
EXCLUSIVE to www.clonezone.co.uk

CHAIR NECESSITIES



Eero Aarnio Bubble Chair

Eero Aarnio created the light and artistic shape of the Bubble Chair in 1968. He embraced the idea of a transparent ball with light coming from all directions and transformed his earlier Bar Chair into an impressive semi-sphere suspended from the ceiling.

[redacted]
www.italiadesigns.co.uk

Sound Chair

Sound is a new-generation armchair that makes each moment of relaxation unique. Sound integrates audio speakers directly into the comfortable headrest, while the punctures in the covering enhance the spread of the three-dimensional sound.

£1970.00
www.natuzzi.co.uk

Z Chair

This chair is made from solid acrylic and weighs nearly 20kg. It's a true designer classic and will sit perfectly in any and every room scheme - from black to white and from modern to classic.

£399.00
www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

Parker Knoll Statesman Chair

Upcycled Parker Knoll Statesman Chair. Restored and reupholstered with donated fabric. The teak feet have a new coat of Osmo oil.

£600.00
www.outofthedark.org.uk

05 Fin Chair

This contemporary piece really comes to life with the rest of the collection. Each piece has a fun, nautical design to liven up your home.

[redacted]
www.made.com

06 Marshmallow Sofa

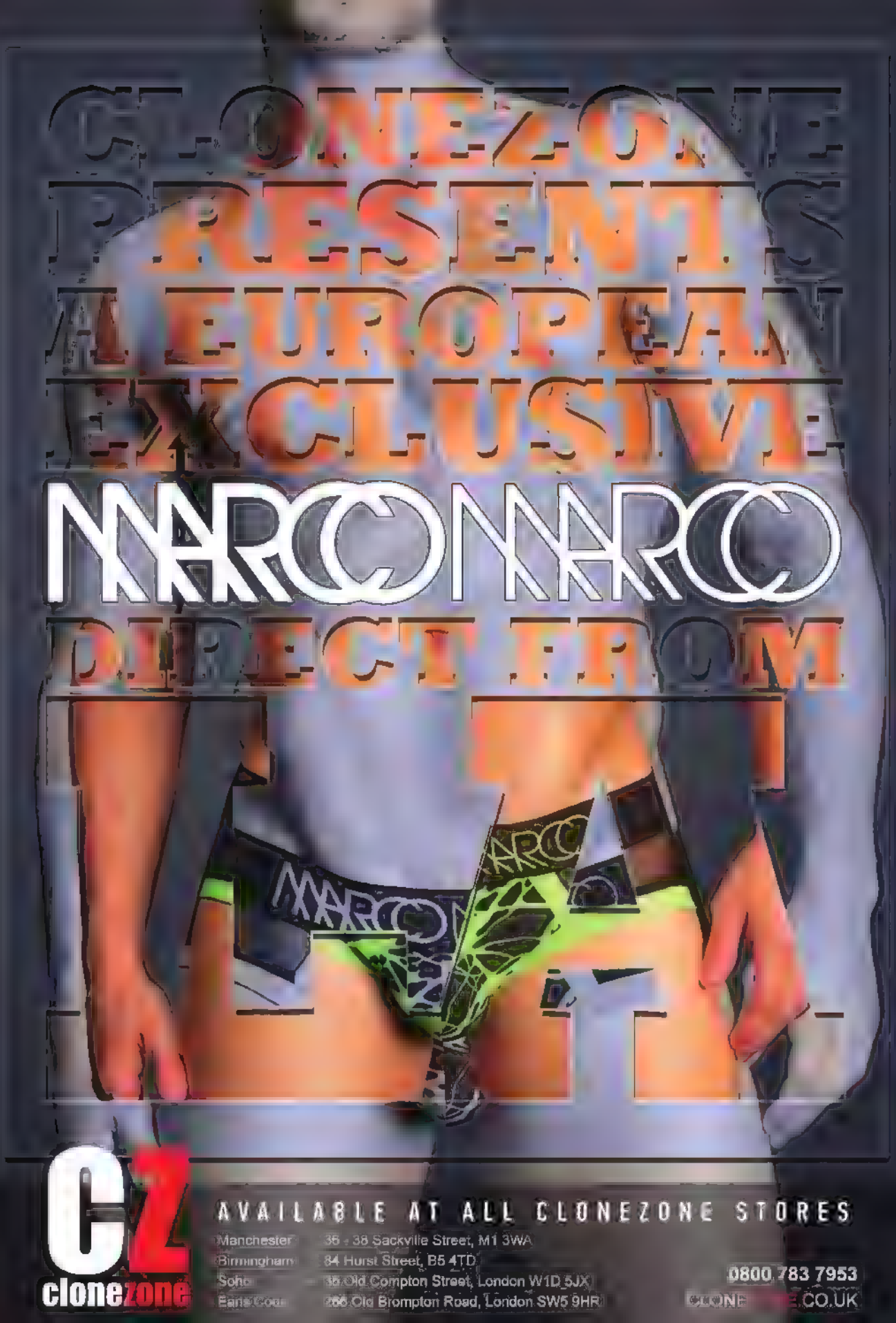
A visually unique and practical piece, the Marshmallow Sofa is one of the landmarks of modern design.

£731.00
www.italiadesigns.co.uk

CLONEZONE PRESENTS A EUROPEAN EXCLUSIVE

MARCO MARCO

DIRECT FROM ITALY



clonezone

AVAILABLE AT ALL CLONEZONE STORES

Manchester	35 - 38 Sackville Street, M1 3WA
Birmingham	84 Hurst Street, B5 4TD
Soho	35 Old Compton Street, London W1D 5JX
Earls Court	266 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9HR

0800 783 7953

CLONEZONE.CO.UK

WIN!

WIN! A pair of L Fest weekend tickets worth £198!

Win this fantastic competition and you and a friend could well be spending a weekend at L Fest, the UK's biggest and best lesbian festival!

Taking place between Friday 17 and Monday 20 July at Uttoxeter Racecourse in Staffordshire, the event features over 60 live acts and performers, plus a weekend of camping fun!

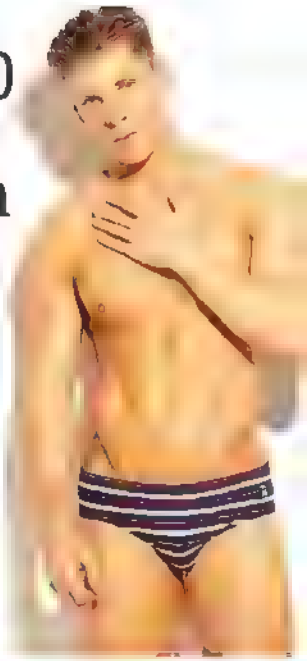
To enter our competition, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer the following question.

Where is L Fest 2015 being held?

A) Uttoxeter Racecourse
B) Cheltenham Racecourse
C) Aintree Racecourse

Good luck!

WIN! A £200 underwear voucher from Bang+Strike



For this competition we've teamed up with our friends over at Bang+Strike - one of the UK's leading online stores, stocking a wide range of underwear, swimwear and more!

With Pride season underway and your summer holidays approaching, there's no better time to grab yourself a new pair of swimmers or pants to parade around in. Bang+Strike stock hundreds of different styles - from briefs and trunks to thongs and jocks - all in a wide variety of colours and prints.

For your chance to win this top competition, visit our website or head over to our Twitter and Facebook profiles for all the details.

For full information on both of these great competitions visit www.midlandszone.co.uk

BOUND & GAGGED COMEDY presents
PAM ANN
QUEEN OF THE SKY
THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2015
BIRMINGHAM
NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE
WARNING: THIS SHOW CONTAINS JOKES THAT SOME PEOPLE MAY FIND OFFENSIVE!

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

SCENE

JULY 2015

SAMANTHA MUMBA

THE *'GOTTA TELL YOU'* STAR HEADS TO BIRMINGHAM'S GAY SCENE

SUMMER BEACH PARTY
Popular gay bar Missing brings the beach to land-locked Birmingham!

CABARET FUN
Life is a cabaret, old chum! Drag queens galore in the Midlands!

GET YOUR LIP GLOSS ON!
A night of entertainment for the trans community, their friends and admirers...

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

just got BIGGER!

NEW!
BRIGHT NEW MISS MARTY
EVERY MONDAY

PLAY ALONG WITH MARTY...
QUICK FIRE BINGO PARTY GAMES & GIVEAWAYS GALORE FROM 10PM!

FREE ENTRY BEFORE MIDNIGHT!
10PM - 3AM

Fabulous

Join Birmingham's award-winning Marty -
The Girl That Likes to Party
EVERY MONDAY from 10pm

MONDAY 6 JULY
SANDRA
THE WHORE OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH

PLUS: The ALL NEW Happy Hour from 10pm
PLUS drinks from £1 ALL NIGHT!

Barbie Bombs - Just £1.50
Buy 2 Large glasses of House Wine and get the rest of the bottle free!

MONDAY 3 AUGUST
VICKY JACKSON AS
LADY GAGA

C:21

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE, TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

Whore of Hampstead SANDRA returns to Shrewsbury's C:21

Monday nights at C:21 in Shrewsbury is one of the biggest gay nights in the West Midlands. The first Monday of every month sees the popular venue hosting live cabaret, with July's spot being filled by the one and only Whore of Hampstead Heath, Sandra!
Not only that, every Monday night throughout the month sees Marty, the girl who likes to party, take to the stage for fun and games!

BIRMINGHAM

2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS AT BRUM BAR

When you've finished work for the day, instead of heading straight home, why not pop into The Loft Lounge in Birmingham for a cheeky cocktail or two? Selected cocktails are two-for-one all day and night between Sunday and Friday! Boooom!
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am.
MISSING BAR

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Cash prizes and free drinks. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED Come and get Pounded from 6pm onwards. £1

IT'S THE MINISTRY OF POUND AT MISSING!

Birmingham's popular Missing Bar on Hurst Street brings you Pounded each and every Monday. From 9pm onwards, you can get your hands on selected drinks from £1. Spirits, beer, bottles - you name it, it's on offer!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

on selected spirits, £1.50 Jagerbomb, Carling, Strongbow / Sambucca

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly drin
BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS 1st & 3rd Monday n
BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) *Mon 6 July* - Live cabaret with Sandra. Free admission

before midnight and just £3 after. Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at just £1!
C.21, SHREWSBURY

CHILLAX
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL NIGHT with Ka
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

GET YOUR PARTY STARTED
GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT

STUDENT NIGHT Free admi
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-ban. Student night.
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm till 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

TACKY TUESDAYS

Birmingham gay scene favourites Miss Penny and Charlotte the Harlotte offer a night of fun and games every Tuesday at The Village Inn. Boasting laughs and prizes galore, it's a perfect way to get rid of any start-of-the-week blues you may be suffering!
Go on, pop in and say hello!

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am

TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME WITH '90s NIGHT

The 1990s - the decade when we were introduced to the Spice Girls and many more fantastic pop groups.
Re-live it by heading to The Nightingale's '90s night.
You'll love it for sure!
THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

KARAOKE TIME AT MISSING BAR

Everyone loves a bit of karaoke in their lives - so head to Missing Bar in Birmingham and join DJ James from 9pm till late. Whether you're good or bad at singing, it's great fun - so go on, grab the mic!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

MISSING KARAOKE With your host DJ James. Party starts at 9pm till late

2 MEALS FOR £10

If you're peckish, head down to Sidewalk in Birmingham. They have a cracking 'two meals for a tenner' menu - great for you and a mate to enjoy, setting you up for a top night on the town. We've tried it and it's fab!

TACKY TUESDAYS with Charlotte and Miss Penny. Songs, Games & Prizes. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

TUESDAY
Mon Baby G
2am
BAR JESTER

BIG TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY Quid

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSA

CAMP QUIZ With h
arts 8.30pm
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY
night with D
ng from pop & hip hop to indie
VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT A twis of awesome tunes
BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

SAMMIE'S SINGERS Karaok
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

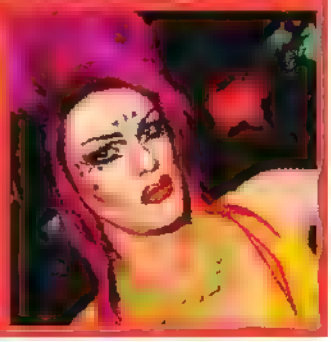
2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm
atmosphere
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CHILL OUT NIGHT
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

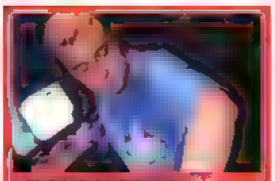
GAMES NIGHT Free P
ntendo Wii from 8pm
DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

SING A SONG with Charlotte the Harlotte at The Village Inn

If you think you've got a singing voice to rival Beyonce, Ellie Goulding or Gary Barlow, then pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show it off to Charlotte the Harlotte and DJ Deano. Whilst you may not walk away with a multi-million pound recording contract with Simon Cowell, you can walk away with a sense of pride - well, or embarrassment, depending on how you've done!



THE VILLAGE INN



Pop in to Brum's Missing Bar for a night of midweek fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mike Emery and the rest of the venue's team. It may be a school night, but a cheeky drink or two won't hurt, will it?

MISSING BAR

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shake your tail feathers at Sidewalks new 2 for 1 cocktail menu.
SIDEWALK

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery

C FACTOR - with Charlotte the Harlotte
THE VILLAGE INN

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL
Free Pool. Open 7 11pm
THE FOX

WACKY WEDNESDAYS H
Hattie James with E
Hour until 2am. O
BAR JESTER

THE WELLINGTON

IT'S COCKTAIL TIME AT THE LOFT LOUNGE!

Rather than heading out for a pint or a double vodka and coke, why not opt for a cocktail? Or better still, how about two? The Loft Lounge in Birmingham is offering two gorgeous cocktails for the price of one! If you're hungry, why not grab a bite to eat as well?
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

WEST MIDLANDS

STUDENT NIGHT
Live DJs, drinks promotions, F
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

WACKY WEDNESDAYS
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT F
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE 9pm til 3am. £2 drink
m 8pm til 11
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

OUT E
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

GAMES NIGHT AT THE NEW FORESTERS

If you're looking for something to do in Nottingham on a Wednesday night, then head down to The New Foresters for free pool and cheap drink!
THE NEW FORESTERS - NOTTS

GET POUNDED at The Nightingale every Thursday

Every Thursday at The Nightingale sees the students of Birmingham's gay scene head down for the biggest party in the city. Cheap drinks and £5 entry is a great start to this incredible night out, which will see you dancing all night long to the tunes of DJ Corey.

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DEANO On the decks. Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN

LA VOIX *Thurs 9 & 23 July* Live cabaret with Britain's Got Talent star La Voix. She's back - you can never have too much of a good thing
EDEN

DROP THE BOMB start of your weekend. £1.50 on all bombs (excluding the Gutterbomb) with our resident DJ Rowan
SIDEWALK

I <3 THE 90S with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm
EDEN BAR

MISS MARTY'S MADHOUSE - Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano
THE VILLAGE INN

LA VOIX DOUBLE DELIGHT AT EDEN BAR

Fans of popular drag artist La Voix are in for a treat this month, as she appears at award-winning Birmingham gay bar Eden not once but twice! The Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist will be live on stage in the Eden Marquee on Thursday 9 and 23 June.

POUNDED £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor. Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SHOT EXCHANGE Keep your eyes on the screens as demand can push drinks prices up and down. Random market crashes will have the prices plummeting but the low prices don't stay around for long
THE CORE

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1.20 bombs. With DJ Mykee!

MISSING BAR

DJ DADDY'S DOLLAR KARAOKE
Drinks from £1
THE FOX

PARTY POP Poptastic tunage with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 9pm until very late
BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

Element 105 on the dec
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

CAMP KARAOKE and ca
Jayne van Camp
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE Free en
Big value drinks. With DJ Z
THE LION, WALSALL

GET OUT with E
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

MOSES MADNESS
games and karao
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

LIFE IS A CABARET at Birmingham's Village Inn

If you're out on a Friday night and looking for some great entertainment, then look no further than Birmingham's award-winning Village Inn. July sees five great acts take to the stage. Kicking off the month's line-up is the legendary Lola Lasagne on Friday the 3rd, whilst the following week sees Miss Marty dropping in to say hi. Miss Thunderpussy gives it her all on Friday the 17th and Friday 24th sees Dolly Diamond take to the stage. Gearing you up for pay week-end on Friday the 31st, it's Sandra.

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES DJ Parm, takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too
Sidewalk

DJ JAMES HOSTS A NIGHT OF PARTY TUNES

Every Friday sees Birmingham's Missing Bar hosting a night of party anthems. Join DJ James from 9pm till late and blast out some of your favourite songs over the speakers! Don't forget - there are great drinks offers too!
Missing Bar

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours
Missing Bar

KARAOKE TIME AT EDEN WITH DJ NIKKI

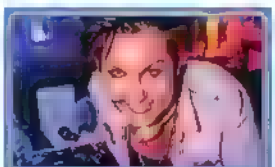
If you fancy a sing-song whilst you're out for the night, then head to Eden Bar in Birmingham's Gay Village every Friday night. DJ Nikki is on hand with a big book of songs, a microphone and an audience! Go on, you know you want to!

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki
Eden Bar

FREAKY FRIDAY Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. *Fri 3 July* Lola Lasagne *Fri 10 July* Miss Marty *Fri 17 July* Miss Thunderpussy *Fri 24 July* Dolly Diamond. *Fri 31 July* Sandra
The Village Inn

INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2
Nightingale Club

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James
Missing Bar



INFUSION

Join DJ Corey every Friday night for Infusion. Corey will be playing the best anthems and floorfillers on the scene. Drinks are from £2 all night long - and it's £2 entry all night long too!

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday
The Village Inn

LIP GLOSS - *Fri 3 July* - With new host, Miss Penny. Live entertainment from Sam Buca and stripper Extreme
Eden Bar

MIDSBEARS - *Fri 17 July* - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers
Eden Bar

XXL

Every third Friday of the month sees the Midlands' biggest men-only night take place at The Core in Birmingham. Join DJ Christian M for a great night out with the men of the Midlands on Friday the 17th.

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed.
Nightingale Club

MIDSBEAR MEET-UP AT EDEN BAR

Friday 19 June sees the monthly Midsbears meet-up take place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. If you've not been before, it's a monthly social group for Bears and their admirers. It's a great night out, so be sure to pop along!

SAATHI - *Fri 31 July* - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra
Nightingale Club

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash!
Eden Bar

VINTAGE FRIDAYS AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

If you're into a bit of old school music, head down to The Loft Lounge in Birmingham every Friday night for a hot helping of Motown, Northern Soul, funk, rock and all of your classic favourites.
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites
The Loft Lounge

XXL - *Fri 17 July* - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month
The Core Club

FUNK'D UP A female [illegible]
Club Chic

KARAOKE Come an[illegible]
The Fox

RETRO FRIDAY R[illegible]

Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

LUSH & YOLO! 1st Fr[illegible] DJs
Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton

TV PARTY NIGHT A Men's Nig[illegible] Essers a[illegible] E
The Greenhouse, Darlaston

BANG The big weekend [illegible] F[illegible]
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos un[illegible] 9.45. Free entry before 11pm
The Three Furnaces, Telford

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS Start th[illegible] E[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

FRIDAY SOCIAL with DJ Paul G[illegible]
The Bell, Stourbridge

KARAOKE with DJ Si[illegible] D[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

NIGHT THE WEEKEND F[illegible] T[illegible]
Pink, Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY [illegible]
Brewery Tap, Worcester

EAST MIDLANDS

CLUB NIGHT with DJ [illegible]
Hedsink, Leicester

FROM FOURTEEN [illegible] F[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

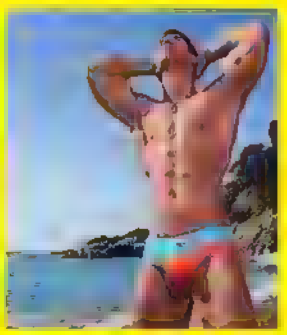
FATTIE FRIDAY [illegible]
New Foresters, Nottingham

Cabaret fun with Miss Glamour at LIP GLOSS

The first Friday of every month (3 July) sees Birmingham's trans* community, their friends and admirers come together for a night of fun at the city's popular Eden Bar! This month there's cabaret from Miss Glamour too! So grab a friend and pop along for a fun night!

Summer's here! So a **BEACH PARTY** is heading to Brum!

The weather's getting better and the clothes are getting skimpier - but this is Birmingham, not Barcelona! Who cares, though, when Brum party bar Missing is hosting its very own Beach Party (on Saturday 25 July). Join DJ Mykee, Twiggy and some sexy beach boys for some equally sexy cocktails. But what will you wear? Shorts? Speedos? Or will you brave the mankini? We can't wait to find out!



BIRMINGHAM

DJ DAN TAKES YOU BACK TO THE '80s

If you fancy turning back the clock thirty-odd years, then head down to Eden Bar in Birmingham, where DJ Dan takes it back to the 1980s. Expect some of the biggest tunes from the decade, not to mention cheap drinks promotions! EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with Dj Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions
Eden Bar

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
Missing Bar

BACK TO THE 80S 2am 4am
Eden Bar

IT'S SATURGAY NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE INN

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Village Inn in Birmingham. You've got two floors of partying - and a great range of music, to boot. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open 'til 8am. With Dj Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With Dj Tonie in The Village Underground
The Village Inn

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions
Nightingale Club

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
Nightingale Club

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get the red carpet treatment with your host and hostess Cher Jb and Miss

IT'S SATURGAY NIGHT AT THE NIGHTINGALE

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Nightingale Club in Birmingham. You've got three floors of partying, split across four great rooms of music. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

Hallie James keeping you entertained with podium dances and fantastic music. Entry £5 10pm until 3am with the first 25 customers having FREE ENTRY
THE CORE CLUB

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic, plus music from across the decades
Missing

STAY L8R AT BRUM'S VILLAGE INN!

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Village Inn in Birmingham. You've got two floors of partying - and a great range of music to boot. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday
The Village Inn

MARY MAC - *Sat 25 July* - Tartan wrapped Scottish drag artist performs at Eden with her own show packed full of hit songs and cheeky banter
Eden

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU with DJ Mykee playing the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial. Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys. Open until 4am
Missing Bar

SAMANTHA MUMBA - *Sat 11 July* - Live PA from Samantha Mumba with hits such as Gotta Tell You, and more! Tickets from www.theticketsellers.co.uk
Nightingale Club

SATURDAY SESSIONS WITH SIMON BAKER

Every Saturday night sees veteran DJ Simon Baker take to the decks at The Loft Lounge in Birmingham, ensuring your evening gets off to a great start. It's the perfect way to relax - or to get the party started!
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

SATURDAY SESSIONS With Dj Simon Baker from 8pm
The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK

One of Birmingham's most popular bars, Sidewalk promises a great night of top satisfaction, with resident DJ Kam playing the very best music to help you kick off your evening in style. There are great drinks offers too! SIDEWALK - BIRMINGHAM

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ playing the best of everything.
Sidewalk

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
Nightingale Club

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Eve
Club Chic

DJ NIKKI 1st Sat monthly
Equator Bar

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 3pm
The Fox

#JUST SAYING Get in the party mood with resident DJ DJ Mid. Great drinks offers with Happy Hour until 2am. Open 9
Bar Jester

KARAOKE Every Sat night
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP & SLAG 9pm
residents until
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

NIGHT OUT
in the cabaret
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos unt 45. Free entry before 10pm
The Three Furnaces, Telford

& SATURDAY NIGHT OUT
& charts. Open midday 4 9pm-3am
Rainbows, Coventry

INCLUSION with big nam Birmingham & UK D
The Bell, Stourbridge

NOT TO MISS Free admission before 11pm. Tanya H cabaret show 9
Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT 10pm t 6am. Free entry he 11pm. £3 before 1am and £5 after
The Boston, Northampton

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 1 6.30am. 3 DJs. With DJ Carla. Fre
NG1, Nottingham

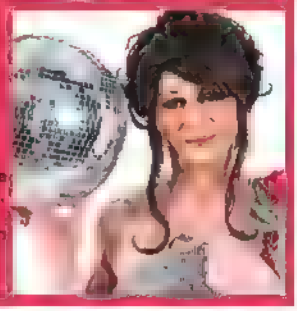
CLUB NIGHT With DJ Nik B playing floor fillers and club bang from midnight. Free entry bef
Helsinki, Leicester

SAMANTHA MUMBA: Bringing the noughties back to Brum

Early-noughties superstar Samantha Mumba is heading to Birmingham on Saturday 11 July and will be taking to the stage to entertain the crowds. Expect her biggest hit, Gotta Tell You, to feature amongst a whole heap of classic RnB tracks. We can't wait - see ya there!

LIVE CABARET every Sunday Birmingham's Village Inn!

If you're a big fan of cabaret, and Friday night at The Village Inn wasn't enough for you, fear not - the popular Hurst Street venue hosts cabaret on Sunday nights too! This month's stars are: Mrs Mills (Sun 5 July), C Factor winner, Mark (Sun 12 July), C Factor runner-up, Dale (Sun 19 July), The Divine Miss M (Sun 26 July). Plus, it's happy hour till 10pm, so get down there and end the week with a laugh!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday
Eden Bar

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
Missing Bar

KARAOKE TIME AT EDEN WITH DJ NIKKI
If you fancy a sing-song whilst you're out for the night, then head to Eden Bar in Birmingham's Gay Village every Sunday night. DJ Nikki is on hand with a big book of songs, a microphone and an audience! Go on, you know you want to!
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95

PENNY'S SUPERSIZED [illegible]
Head down to Birmingham's Missing Bar every Sunday and enjoy some live cabaret from the one and only Miss Penny. She'll be hosting two shows, at 8.30pm and 10.30pm. Go on, just do it!

The Loft Lounge

LIVE CABARET A whole host of cabaret throughout the month. *Sun 5 July* Mrs Mills. *Sun 12 July* C Factor Winner Mark. *Sun 19 July* C Factor Runner Up, Dale. *Sun 26 July* The Divine Miss M
The Village Inn

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served from 1pm. Cure that hangover and choose from a variety of meats with all the best bits of a roast for only £6.95
Sidewalk

[illegible]
The Fox

[illegible]
Bar Jester

[illegible]

The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

[illegible]
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL OUT A[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

[illegible]

Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

QUEENS OF DRAG [illegible]

The White Hart, Wolverhampton

[illegible]

Three Furnaces, Telford

[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

[illegible]

Rainbow & Dove, Leicester

[illegible]
New Foresters, Nottingham

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Out and about around **Birmingham's Gay Village...**

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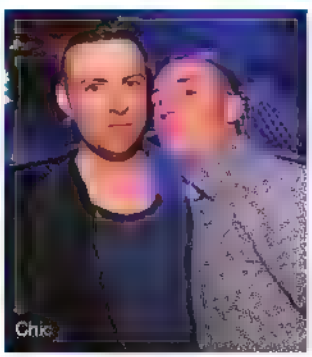
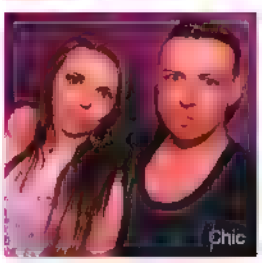
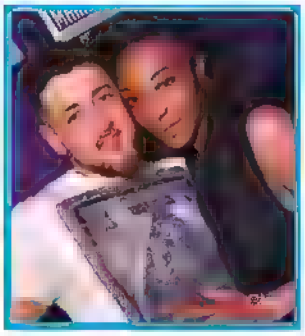
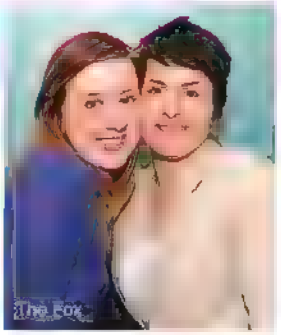


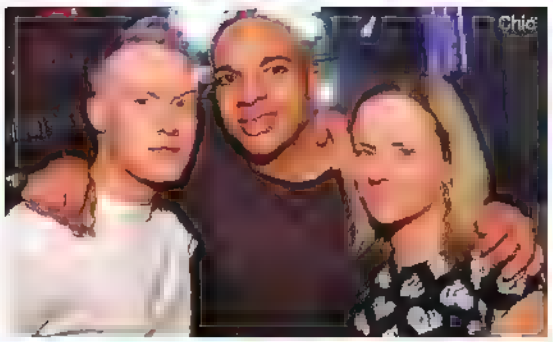


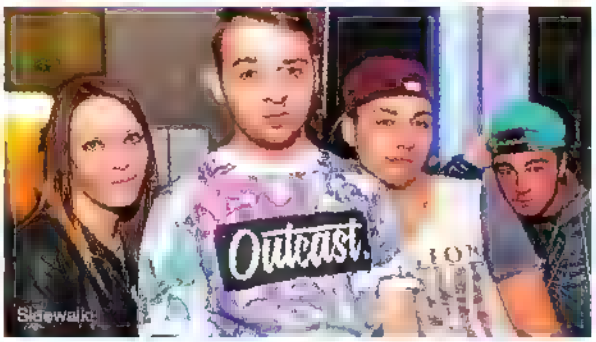
Pictures by Laura Byrne

The Fox




The Fox


Chic

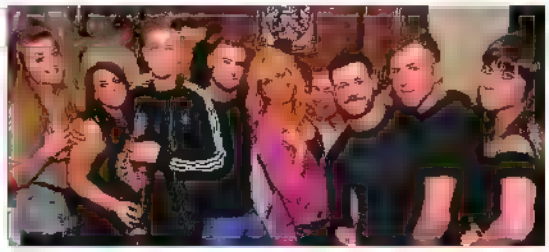

Outcast
Sidewalk

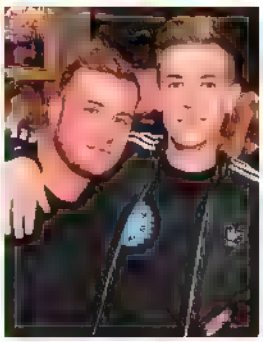
Sidewalk

Chic

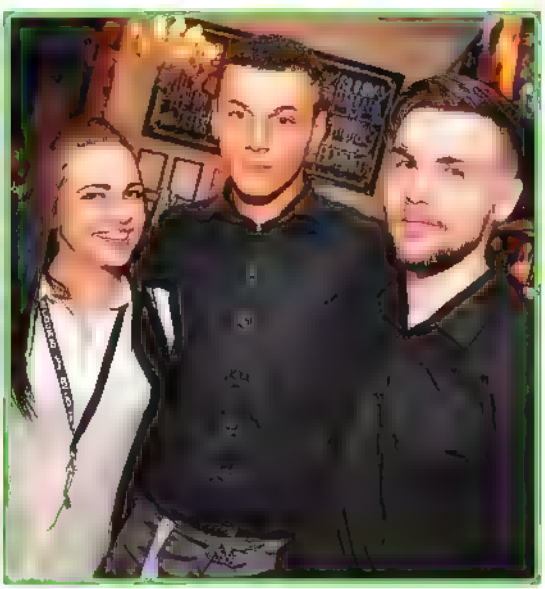
PARIS
NYC
Sidewalk

The Loft Lounge: A chic and sexy night out in Brum!





More original photos on facebook



Pictures by Loving Photos

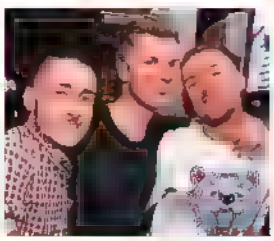
THE LOFT LOUNGE

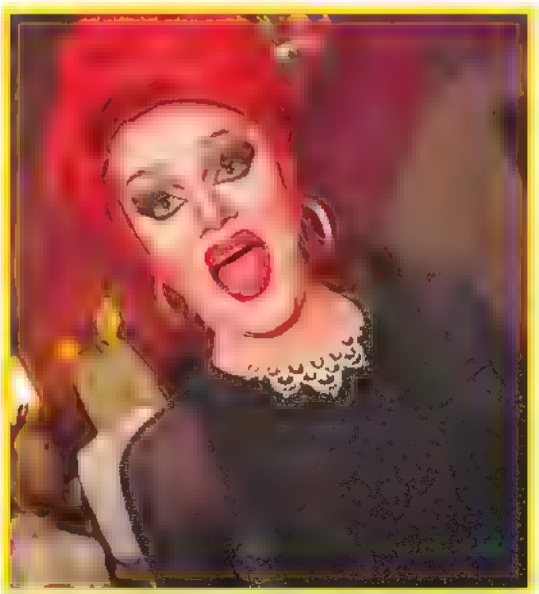
loft birmingham @loftlounge2 loftbirmingham

143 Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, B5 6RG

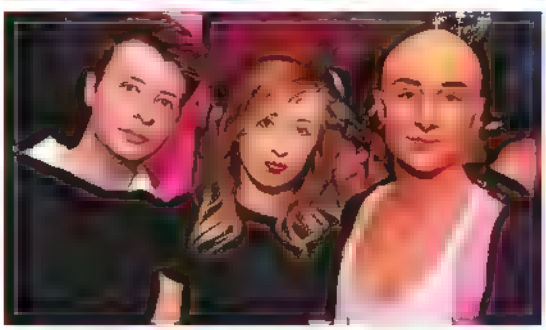
0121 622 2444

It's party central at **The Village Inn** in Birmingham





More great photos on facebook



THE VILLAGE INN

JULY CABARET

FRIDAY 3RD
LOLA LASAGNE

FRIDAY 10TH
MISS MARTY

FRIDAY 17TH
MISS THUNDERPUSSY

VILLAGE L8R

FRIDAY 24TH
DOLLY DIAMOND

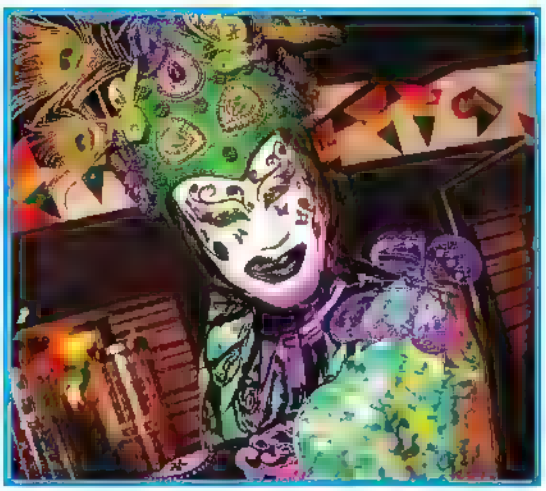
FRIDAY 31ST
SANDRA

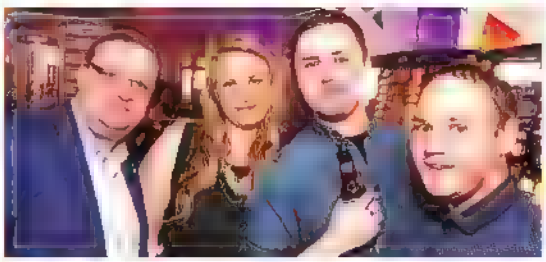
FRIDAY TILL 6AM
SATURDAY TILL 8AM

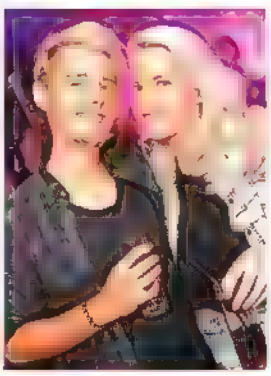
WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

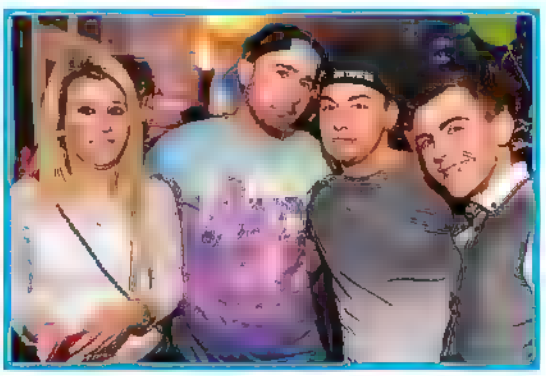
VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM @VILLAGEBRUM THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

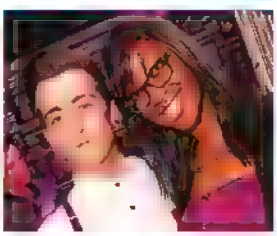
Missing: A great gay night out in Birmingham!

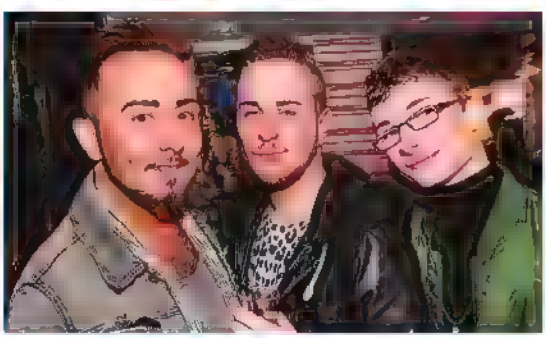








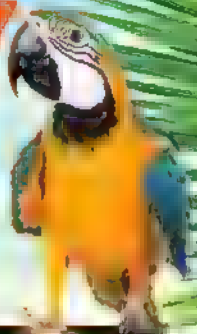




SATURDAY 25TH JULY

BEACH PARTY

SHORTS? SPEEDO? MANKINI?



COME AND JOIN OUR BEACH WEAR PARTY!

DJ MYKEE

TWIGGY

SEXY BEACH BOYS

COCKTAILS

Missing

MISSING BAR, 48 BROMSGROVE STREET, SOUTHSIDE, BIRMINGHAM, B5 6NU. CALL: 0121 622 4256 EMAIL: INFO@MISSINGBAR.CO.UK

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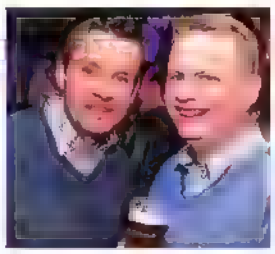
It's a fabulous night out at Birmingham's **Eden**!



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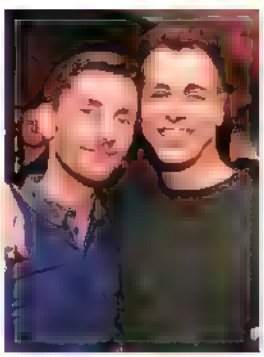

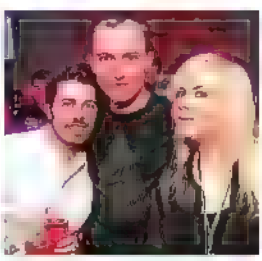

Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

EDEN JULY

edeneden eden

Open from 2pm every day

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FRIDAY 3rd

Gloss with your host MISS PENNY !

Cabaret MISS GLAMOUR

Champagne reception, Topless waiter, Raffle, Buffet,

PLUS - Hot Stripper

SATURDAY 4th

No Membership Fee - Large Car Park

Exclusive Drinks Offers

Same Great Atmosphere

Door rollover raffle of £215

BEAR BRUM ZONE

WINNER - Best Midlands Gay Venue for Men

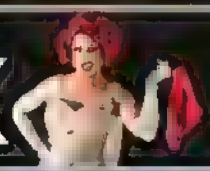
FRIDAY 17th

MidsBears Monthly Meet In the Marquee Special Drinks Offers All Night

MIDSBEARS

THURSDAY 9th

La Voix



WITH A NEW START TIME OF 10PM DON'T MISS ME MY DARLINGS!

FRIDAY 10th

SAT 11th

SUN 12th

BIRMINGHAM BULLS RFC

Birmingham Bulls Touch Rugby Tournament!

Come join us for a whole weekend of the phenomenal sport of touch rugby!

FRIDAY 10th 9pm Registration @ Eden Bar

SAT 11th 10am-4pm Tournament @Westhill Close

5pm-6pm Drinks, Dinner & Prizes @Eden Bar

9pm-late Post Tournament Party @Eden Bar WITH GUEST CABARET

SUN 12th 11am Hangover Breakfast. 2pm Kangaroo Court @Eden Bar

SATURDAY 18th

QUEENS OF POP

THURSDAY 23rd

La Voix

WITH A NEW START TIME OF 10PM DON'T MISS ME MY DARLINGS!

SATURDAY 25th

MARY MAC

Tartan wrapped Scottish Drag Artist performing throughout the UK and internationally with her own show packed full of hit songs and cheeky banter.

THURSDAY 30th

Charlie Hides is an award winning cabaret artist, YouTube sensation and man of 1,000 faces.

OUR NEWLY REFURBISHED MARQUEE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

PRIVATE GARDEN
SMOKING AREA
SOUND & LIGHT

EVERY THURS

90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

GREAT ATMOSPHERE

EVERY FRI & SUN

KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI

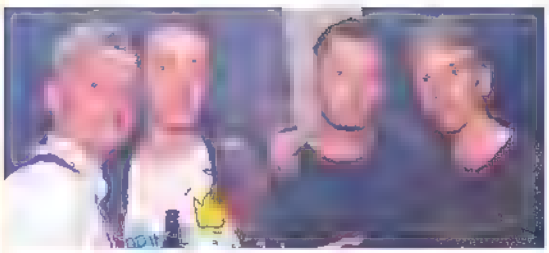
COME ALONG & SING WITH A FRIENDLY REGULAR CROWD

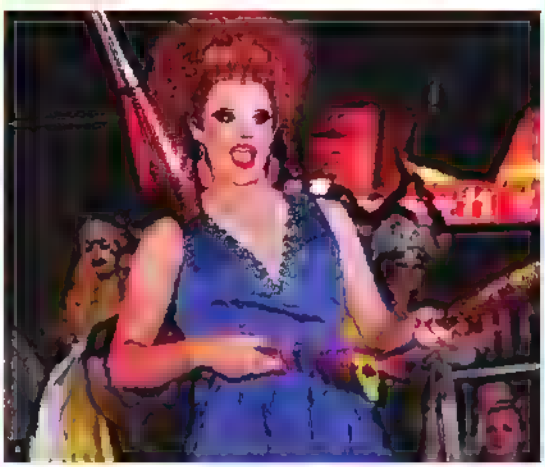
EVERY SAT

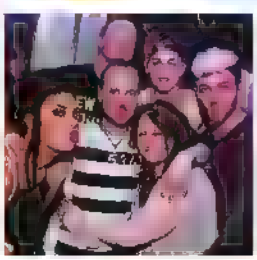
80s HITS WITH DJ DAN

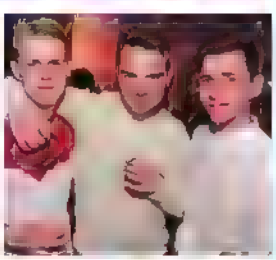
POP & DANCE TILL 2
80s FROM 2-4 AM &
CRAZY DRINK PRICES

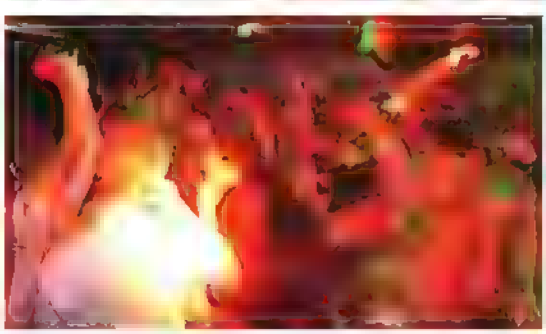
The Nightingale: Brum's biggest gay superclub!











Birmingham

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Holloway Circus
B1 1EQ
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Tel: 0121 666 6888

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Tel: 0121 666 6806

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www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 50

EQUATOR
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1152

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 44

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar
See pictures on page 48

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 52

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingm.co.uk
See pictures on page 36

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 46

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
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ROYAL EXCHANGE
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Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

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Tel: 01538 382812

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/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

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www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

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ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PINK
93 Stafford Street,
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowd Crowd 1st Mon
monthly 7 Wesley St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd
Madeley TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

LION BAR & CLUB
Bridge St
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS CLUB
School St WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART
Wolverhampton St
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Belgrave St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
18b Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Anns St. NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE [illegible]
36 Lower Parliament
Street NG1 3BA (Gay
Friendly)

NG1 CLUB
76-80 Lower Parliament
St NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

PROPAGANDA
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A Positive Life

Autin Dance Theatre returns to the Crescent with a brand new digital, interactive and unique dance theatre experience
The company's new piece presented by an ensemble of world-class physical theatre performers has been inspired by the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the HIV virus
The show's movement vocabulary is drawn from individual stories, reports and commentaries connected to the AIDS pandemic.
Highlighting the discrimination endured by seropositive people, the piece brings to life five different characters and their particular journeys.

The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Tue 21 July

Barnum

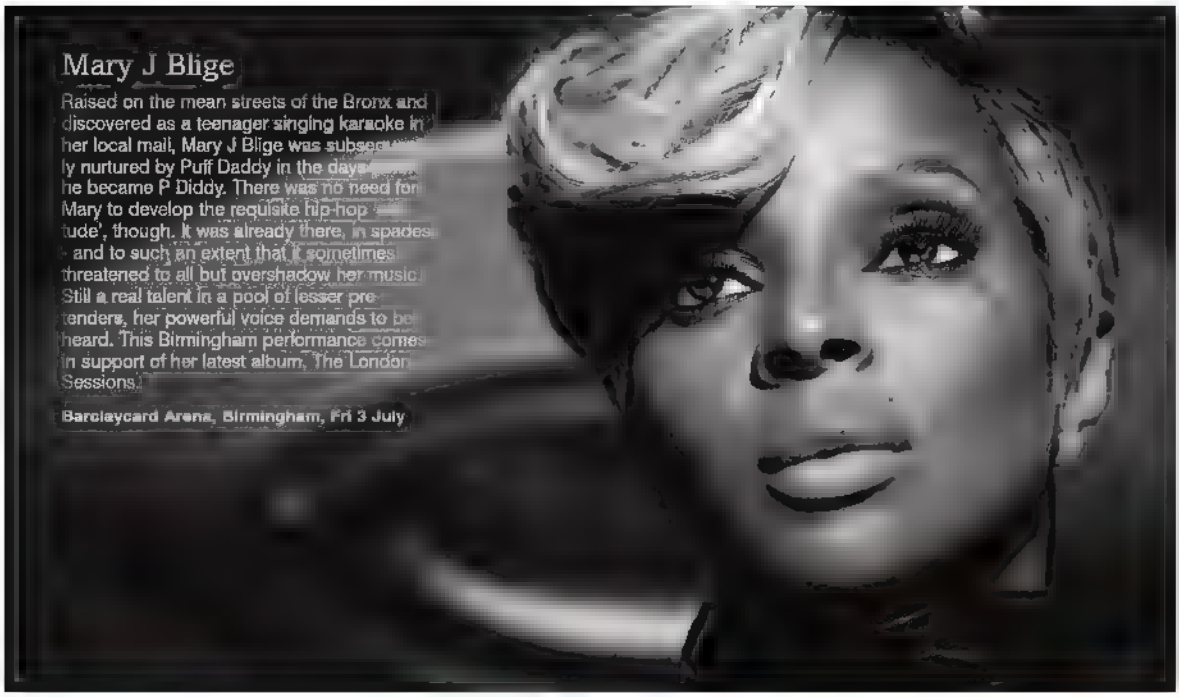
This Cameron Mackintosh and Chichester Festival Theatre revival has done great business since debuting in 2013. And for long-in-the-tooth theatre-goers it will recall pleasant memories of thirty-plus years ago, when the show was the talk of the town.
Telling the story of 'America's Greatest Showman', Phineas T Barnum, the musical premiered on Broadway in 1980, with one-time Carry On cast member Jim Dale taking the title role. The West End version opened the following year, and established Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em star Michael Crawford as one of the UK's brightest theatrical talents. Featuring hit numbers Come Follow The Band, The Colours Of My Life and There Is A Sucker Born Every Minute, this touring production stars Midlands favourite Brian Conley.

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 7 July - Sat 1 August

East Is East

Pauline McLynn (Father Ted, Shameless and EastEnders) stars as Ella in Ayub Khan Din's semi-autobiographical account of British Asian life in the 1970s. Pakistani chip-shop owner George may be determined to give his children a strict Muslim upbringing, but the kids themselves have other ideas. Born and brought up in Britain, they increasingly see themselves as British, their rejection of Pakistani customs leading to plenty of household tensions and no shortage of comic moments.

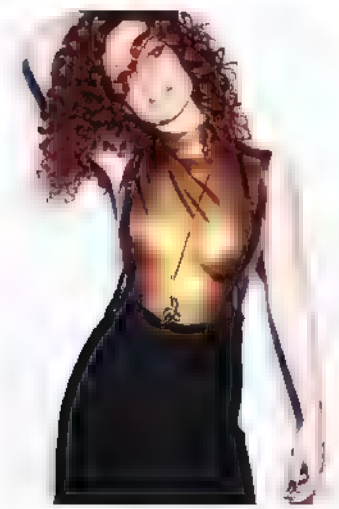
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 20 - Sun 25 July



Mary J Blige

Raised on the mean streets of the Bronx and discovered as a teenager singing karaoke in her local mall, Mary J Blige was subsequently nurtured by Puff Daddy in the days before he became P Diddy. There was no need for Mary to develop the requisite hip-hop attitude', though. It was already there, in spades - and to such an extent that it sometimes threatened to all but overshadow her music. Still a real talent in a pool of lesser pretenders, her powerful voice demands to be heard. This Birmingham performance comes in support of her latest album, The London Sessions.

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Fri 3 July



Jess Glynne

To say Jess Glynne - one of the UK's hottest young talents - is having a fantastic start to her career is an understatement. The London-born singer-songwriter not only featured on Clean Bandit single Rather Be - a chart-topper in both the UK and Ireland - she also scored a hit with her debut solo single, Right Here, and has this year bagged her first number one, courtesy of Hold My Hand.
This Coventry gig is one of two special warm-up shows before her headline set at T In The Park.

Kasbah, Coventry, Thurs 9 July

Kaiser Chiefs

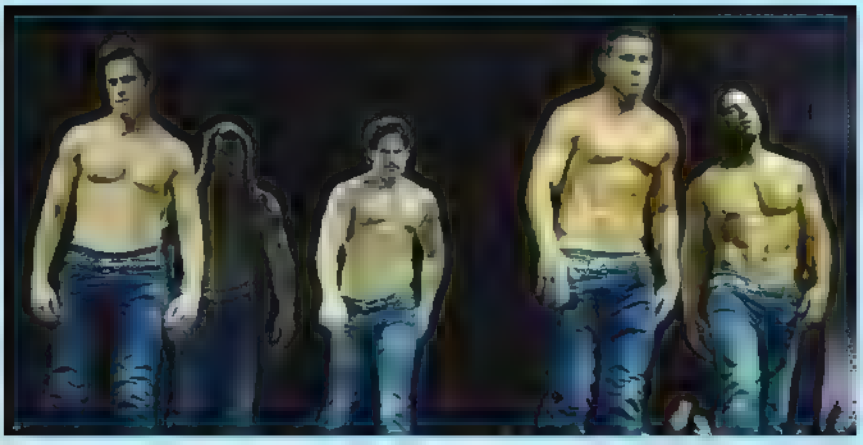
This is a band that needs no introduction, particularly since lead singer Ricky Wilson became a judge on BBC One's The Voice. Primarily inspired by new wave and punk rock music of the late 1970s and 1980s, the band have released five original studio albums, including Employment (2005) - which reached number two on the UK album chart - and Education, Education & War (2014). Having kicked off 2015 supporting one of the world's biggest rock groups, Foo Fighters, in Brazil, the band have a busy few months ahead of them. Not only do they have a string of UK and US tour dates, they're also currently working on their sixth studio album. The Kaiser Chiefs will be joined by Professor Green and Ella Eyre for the Friday line-up of this year's Sounds In The Grounds.

Warwick Castle, Fri 10 July

Godiva Festival

Maintaining its status as one of the biggest free, ticketless festivals in the country, Godiva once again hosts a diverse and impressive programme, with ska/reggae bands The Skints and Dreadzone performing on the Saturday night as well as urban acts Big Narstie and Lady Leshurr.
Indie rock Liverpudlians The Wombats take top billing on the Saturday, while Embrace round off the festival with a selection of their crowdpleasing hits on the Sunday. As well as its plethora of well-known names among whom are Fun Lovin' Criminals, Don Broco, The Beat and We Are The Ocean - Godiva also includes a Cerebral dance for the first time and, as usual, provides a platform on which local artists and bands can showcase their skills. Comedy acts, vintage markets, a silent disco, family field entertainment, licensed bars and food stalls also feature.

War Memorial Park, Coventry, Fri 3 - Sun 5 July



Magic Mike XXL

CERT 15 (115 mins)

Starring **Channing Tatum, Matt Bomer, Joe Manganiello, Andie MacDowell, Amber Heard, Elizabeth Banks, Jada Pinkett Smith** Directed by **Gregory Jacobs (USA)**

The former male stripper 'Magic Mike' (Tatum) is back, this time to compete in a stripping convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – his last hurrah. Incidentally, Steven Soderbergh, who directed the original film, returns here as cinematographer. Expect six packs galore. Out 3 July

Amy CERT 15 (128 mins)

Directed by **Asif Kapadia (UK)**

Asif Kapadia won ecstatic reviews for his Bafta winning documentary Senna (about the Formula One numero uno Ayrton Senna). Now he focuses his attention on the career, life and death of Amy Winehouse, the London-born singer-songwriter. Again, the reviews have been exemplary – although Amy's family are none too happy with the film. Out 3 July

Ant Man CERT tbc

Starring **Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Corey Stoll, Bobby Cannavale, Michael Peña, Michael Douglas, Hayley Atwell**
Directed by **Peyton Reed (USA)**

Ready for a new franchise? Here comes Ant-Man – aka Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) – the latest superhero to scurry out of the Marvel Comics catalogue. Scott Lang is actually a conman who comes by a suit that enables him to shrink yet become incredibly strong. With the new technology at his pincer tips he decides to reform his ways and join up with the entomologist Hank Pym (Michael Douglas) to save the world. Out 10 July

Southpaw CERT tbc

Starring **Jake Gyllenhaal, Forest Whitaker, Rachel McAdams, Naomie Harris, Victor Ortiz, Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson, Tyrese Gibson** Directed by **Antoine Fuqua (USA)**

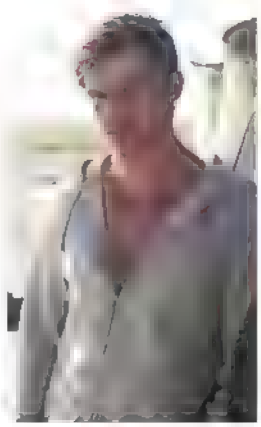
With the Weinstein Company's Harvey Weinstein already predicting Oscar glory for Jake Gyllenhaal, Southpaw should have some thespian punch. Gyllenhaal plays Billy Hope, a boxer at the height of his career – but his wife (McAdams) pleads for him to quit... Incidentally, the American Academy does like to hand out Oscars to actors playing boxers: think Robert De Niro, Hilary Swank and Christian Bale. Out 10 July

Beyond The Reach

CERT 12a (91 mins)

Starring **Michael Douglas, Jeremy Irvine, Ronny Cox, Hanna Mangan-Lawrence** Directed by **Jean-Baptiste Léonetti (USA)**

Michael Douglas plays John Madec, a corporate shark who goes hunting in the Mojave Desert. But when he accidentally shoots a desert hobo, his reparation takes an unexpected and dangerous turn. Based on the 1972 novel Deathwatch by Robb White, the film was not reviewed kindly in the States. Out 10 July

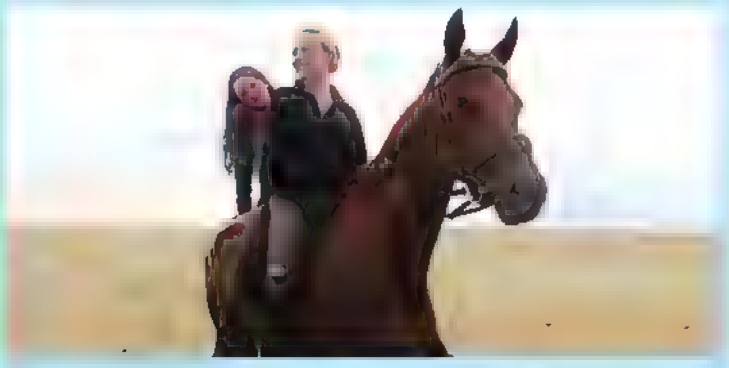


DVDs

Boys On Film 13: Trick & Treat (18)

The hugely popular Boys On Film series is back, surprising and delighting with ten new short movies that explore the darkest of desires and confront the most hidden of secrets
In this latest collection, an American teenager fantasises about his school bully, a miscommunication threatens to end an entire relationship, a group of old men cheat death in the desolate English countryside, and an elderly woman sees a vision of Christ on the swimming shorts of a young African man

Of Girls And Horses (15)



Alex is running out of chances, so her parents send her to work for the summer at a horse ranch deep in the countryside. It's literally her worst nightmare, as she's forced to work hard and care for something other than herself
When the rather shy Kathy arrives, she ignites feelings in Alex that go beyond friendship
As the girls grow closer, Alex gradually learns to care for the beautiful horses. And, thanks to her new-found maturity, she also begins - finally - to feel hopeful about the future.

...and something to read

You And Me And Him

Kris Dinnison

This debut novel from author Kris Dinnison has been widely acclaimed. It tells the story of Maggie and Nash, a pair of outsiders. She's overweight. He's out of the closet. The best of friends, they've seen each other through thick and thin. But when Tom moves to town at the start of the school year, they have something unexpected in common - feelings for the same guy...
This warm, witty novel - with a clear, true voice and a clever soundtrack of musical references - sings a song of both love and forgiveness.

New Music

Communion

Years & Years

Two years ago, Years & Years went all or nothing on their careers. The move paid off and their debut album is finally here. Narrowly missing out on a BRIT award, they've had a hit single with King

In A Bunch - The Singles

Bananarama

This lavish 33-CD box set brings together every single released by the iconic girl group during their time with London Records, from their 1981 debut Aie A Mwana to 1993's More, More, More

NOW 91

Various Artists

The latest addition to the popular NOW That's What I Call Music series is released this month. Expect the biggest and best floorfillers and pop hits from the past couple of months. It's the perfect CD for your car!

Swifts receive cash boost for LGBT runners in Birmingham

The Birmingham Swifts, the city's LGBT running group, has been awarded nearly £2,000 from the Birmingham Pride Trust Fund.

The money will go towards increasing the Swifts' visibility and improving the quality of running sessions on offer for Birmingham's LGBT community.

Thanks to the grant, the club will now be able to own group kit for individuals who may not be able to afford to purchase their own.

Alongside the clothing, the club will also have a new flag - to act as a focal point at races and events - and new publicity materials to attract prospective members.

The Swifts will also be able to put on extra sessions and provide a training plan for the Great Birmingham Run.

Shrewsbury selected as hub for 2016 National Festival of LGBT History

Shrewsbury LGBT community the Salopian Rainbows has announced that the Shropshire county town has been selected to host a 'hub' for the second annual National Festival of LGBT History in 2016.

The town will be joined by Bristol, London, Manchester and York.

The festival celebrates three centuries of LGBT history and is run entirely by volunteers. It features campaigners, scholars and performers sharing unique and rarely heard stories from LGBT history.

The Salopian Rainbows are a collection of Shropshire-based individuals, groups and organisations concerned with LGBT and human rights.

They took part in this year's LGBT History event by presenting Rainbow Shropshire, 'a glimpse into the history of gay life in a rural county'. As a result, the group were approached to host a supporting event in Shrewsbury next year. They are now looking for people to take part.

The group's current but still evolving plan for their 2016 presentation is to hold an opening event featuring an introductory speaker and then provide a variety of entertainment.

An event the following day would feature a film, six thirty-minute presentations and a number of academic presentations running in parallel.

The group is also hoping to get a local school involved, exploring aspects of LGBT history in the week running up to the festival.

If you would like to be involved with Shrewsbury's 'hub' as part of the National Festival of LGBT History, or put forward your own presentation, get in touch with the Salopian Rainbows by emailing salopianrainbows@gmail.com.

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Birmingham charity asks community to help run its Health & Wellbeing Centre

Birmingham LGBT is asking the community to make donations towards the running of its Health and Wellbeing Centre.

The user-led charity's premises costs £633 per day to run. The centre provides a hub for the LGBT community in Birmingham and hosts a range of services, acting as a venue for community-led meetings and workshops and directly delivering events.

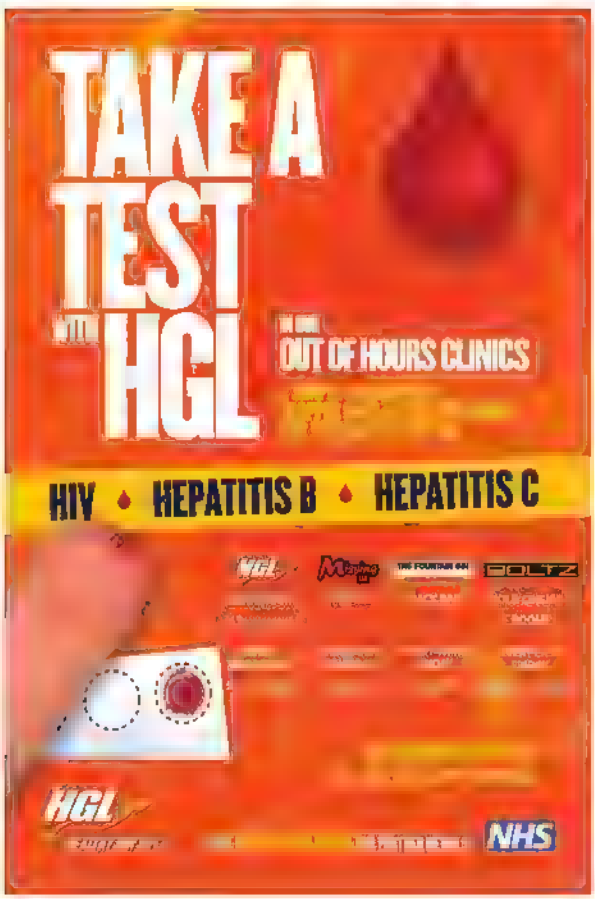
'We've developed a pioneering health and wellbeing centre in Birmingham which has gained national recognition and won multiple awards,' says the charity. 'We have a range of services and projects, from an older people's befriending service to an empowerment project for young people. We're a Birmingham success story passionate about building a proud, visible and vibrant LGBT community in the city and beyond.

'We're working to develop a vibrant LGBT community in Birmingham in which individuals can realise their full potential and have equal access to all the city has to offer. To achieve this we must sustain and develop our services so that we're always there for the community. We can't do this without your support.

'Just £80 allows us to facilitate a two-hour support group, providing a safe environment where members of the LGBT community with a common issue can share concerns and can support each other.

'And just £45 means we can provide meeting space for one of the LGBT-led community groups for two hours.

'Please support these vital services and be part of making a positive difference to the lives of LGBT people in Birmingham.'



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Unit 2 Holloway House, Martin Hill Street, **Dudley** DY2 8RT
Suite 3, 1st Floor Lanchard House Victoria Street, **West Bromwich** B70 8ER
Info@shsl.org.uk / 01384 243 220

For full details and contact information of each organisation go to midlandszone.co.uk

Arts Groups

ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday [illegible] Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone [illegible] @hotmail.com or visit www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group [illegible]

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre B[illegible] e: [illegible]@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra [illegible] or visit www.[illegible].org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month. Tel [illegible] 8 [illegible]

GAPP Gay and Performing Poetry Performance Group. Call Mike [illegible] 791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Head Tavern Tel [illegible] 8[illegible]

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT Choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester [illegible] 8[illegible]48

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm. Tel: Jayne 01902 5[illegible]

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly www.[illegible]@hotmail.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for 30s men. Call Jon [illegible] 4 4 [illegible]

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Call [illegible] 8[illegible] 6[illegible] 8[illegible] 3 Dennis.

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading group 1st Monday monthly [illegible] 5.45pm Tel [illegible] 8[illegible]

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e: [illegible]@lgbt centre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 1 am Walsall [illegible] Contact Ruth [illegible] 8[illegible]21

LGBT Groups

ALLeonis Group for young adults 18-25 [illegible] Centre [illegible] St Paul Place [illegible] 254 4 2

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social Group. Meets in Walsall every 1st Friday 7.30pm Village Hub, Caldmore, Walsall Tel [illegible] 4 9 [illegible]429

BROTHERHOOD Group for [illegible] Meets [illegible] Centre Leicester. Call Dennis 0116 254 7412

DRUM IN GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every [illegible] at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in. Tel 07532 [illegible]

DRUM DIKING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month. e: [illegible]@hotmail.com

CORBY LGBT NETWORK Networking and social group. 3rd Wed monthly 7.30pm [illegible]

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene. Call 02476 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based on De Montfort [illegible]

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee network [illegible] or visit [illegible]

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Meet & support group Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]

DOSTI South Asian men's group. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 [illegible]47

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly New Duffield venue. Interested call Matt Barlow on [illegible] 354 [illegible]

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN [illegible] Hollowgram contact: 0121 [illegible]

EVERGREEN LGBT Social [illegible] B'ham Tel [illegible] 49 4 [illegible]

FAN LGBT Social Events Group, Northants. www.fannorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP [illegible] person on 0121 565 4 [illegible]

GAYMEZ LGBT Games [illegible] Tues monthly. Tues 8 10pm Tel [illegible] 2 4[illegible]42

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community Social Group meets every Thurs [illegible] Tel [illegible] 5

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's group in The Heart centre [illegible] Hereford. No [illegible] necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social group for men affected by HIV. [illegible]shire Tel [illegible] 16 254 1 [illegible]7

I ME Group for BME LGBT [illegible] Wolverhampton [illegible] Monthly Tel [illegible] 81 [illegible]

LADS CAFE Shropshire [illegible] & Telford Call 01952 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6-8pm Tel [illegible] 88 [illegible]

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT [illegible] Meets every Tues & [illegible] mail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call [illegible] on 0116 241 6 [illegible]8

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury [illegible]

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Social for Trans Meets every Wed at The University Harvey www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from [illegible] [illegible]

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community West Midlands Social [illegible] Tel [illegible] 440 1066

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing [illegible] 440 [illegible] 80 [illegible]50

PINK SOU'WESTERS Sports group B'ham LGBT group [illegible] Sunday social events and activities. Call [illegible] 4[illegible]

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday [illegible] 7pm [illegible] Drinkers Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]042

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non Scene group 4th Sat monthly. Free buffet meal provided at Matt Barlow's on [illegible] 354 [illegible]

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at MH 3rd Monday monthly at The Arc 8.15pm Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Finding A Voice. Social group in Birmingham. Meet once a month at B'ham LGBT Centre. Call: 212[illegible] 645 1[illegible]60

THIRD WAY Social Group for bi people over 18. Every 3rd Tuesday monthly [illegible] Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]42

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT social group Call [illegible] 64

WAGS Walsall Arts [illegible] Social Group. Over 18s [illegible] @[illegible]mail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social Society. Organises events in and around the University campus & town. warwickpride.org

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.[illegible].org.uk

WS MIDLANDS LGBT Social group. Every 1st Tues meeting in Walsall Tel [illegible] 896 [illegible]57

LGBT Forums

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2002. Email: [illegible]@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST [illegible] and representing LGBT people's views e: [illegible]@btconnect.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGB Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: [illegible]@blgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe discrete confidential [illegible] Call [illegible] 440 1 [illegible]

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history [illegible] Tel [illegible]

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE most numerous social groups Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To [illegible] Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]42

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call [illegible] 6 [illegible]711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's support [illegible] 4[illegible]

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer [illegible] Tel [illegible] 6[illegible]42

PRISM A forum for LGBT people at [illegible] Call [illegible] 254 [illegible]2

RAINBOW HERITAGE [illegible] Call 0115 4[illegible]9

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Health events for [illegible] Tel [illegible] 16 254 1 [illegible]

Mature Groups

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50. Buzzwords Coventry. Call: James on [illegible] 4[illegible]

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER Mixed social network for people Call [illegible] 16 254 4[illegible]2

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for [illegible] gay & bisexual men in Wolverhampton [illegible] 4[illegible]42

LGBT 50+ Sports Stars [illegible] group for people [illegible]

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets [illegible] Tuesday every Friday 11am. Call Trevor on [illegible]

MATURE GAY MEN For men [illegible] Trevor on [illegible] 8[illegible]48

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly [illegible] for mature, [illegible] Gay and Bi-sexual men in Wolves. Every Monday 1 4pm. Tel: 01902 425092

OLDER LBG Women's network [illegible] Call [illegible] 79 [illegible]

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & [illegible] group Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP [illegible] for mature LGBT Tel [illegible] 782 [illegible]

Religious Groups

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation & [illegible] classes. Tel: 0121 449 [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM LGCM [illegible] Group. Tel [illegible] 3445

CHANGING ATTITUDE [illegible] Trans Group. Contact [illegible] 8

DERBY QUEST [illegible] 5 6 [illegible] Tel [illegible] 8 2957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham. Call: 0121 4[illegible] Worship [illegible] Call [illegible] 4[illegible]

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for [illegible] gay Catholics and their friends. Meet for [illegible] Call [illegible] 4[illegible]5

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS [illegible] and gay [illegible] Tel [illegible] 4[illegible] 10am or for lunch [illegible] 3445 [illegible]3445

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay [illegible] and supportive group [illegible] Birmingham. [illegible] Tel [illegible] 3606 808 [illegible]4

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans & Magic [illegible] We [illegible] Call [illegible] 943 [illegible]

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS. Support group for lesbian and gay christians [illegible] or call 07974 7647

Sport & Fitness

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT [illegible] www.[illegible]

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT [illegible] Call Andy [illegible] 8 [illegible] 6 or visit [illegible]

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB [illegible] in South [illegible] www.[illegible]

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian [illegible] Call [illegible] 16 [illegible]37

LGBT Community Indoor [illegible] Wolverhampton Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7 8.30pm Tel 0121 643 3821

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks [illegible] a month on Sundays Contact [illegible] yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham. Call Andy on [illegible] [illegible] 41

MOSELEY SHOALS [illegible] Gay football team founded in [illegible] 4[illegible]2

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOIS Gay football team founded in [illegible] 4[illegible]2

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads [illegible]

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB [illegible] Activity [illegible] 266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel [illegible] 4[illegible]42

WOLVES WARRIORS [illegible] Tel Andy on [illegible] [illegible]50

Student Groups

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week [illegible]

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union [illegible]

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel [illegible] [illegible]

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University Contact Aston [illegible] Monday @ [illegible]

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION [illegible] events every Wednesdays & Sundays e: lgbtq [illegible]

Women's Groups

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail network. e: Birmingham [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP [illegible] Meets 1st Sun of the month 3 pm Tel [illegible] 3

BI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP [illegible] Centre at [illegible] [illegible]

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the Midlands area Call [illegible] 8 y [illegible]

BORDER WOMEN Networking for women [illegible] www.[illegible]

L BOW ROOM Social group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday in monthly Tel [illegible]

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club every 3rd Sunday monthly [illegible]

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS [illegible] Social group meets in [illegible] & social pub [illegible]

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for

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To find out more about all these organisations, their website

the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact on-sue@hotmail.co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group, Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266998

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly. e: me_myself_i79@outlook.com

Youth Groups

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call: 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 [illegible]

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611781

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry. info@prismlgbtq.org

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

XZY Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every [illegible] e: [illegible]@yahoo.co.uk

HIV/AIDS Helplines

ASIPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (8 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay/Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley / Sandwell borough. Tel: 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs Birmingham: 0121 694 6440
Solihull: 0121 694 6440
Coventry: 02476 229292
Nottingham: 0115 882 0[illegible]
Telford: 01952 221410
Wolves: 01902 711818

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester. Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Loleita Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 0[illegible] 233456 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat Summit House, Dudley Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs Tel: 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe, Community Groups, Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 344474

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk in Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GAOL STREET Open Monday - Friday. Call 01432 376915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Matt 07980 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham, 1st Monday monthly. Call: Adrian on 0115 883 9061

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGB&T individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 613141

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project providing free, confidential advice & support. Tel: [illegible]

Support Groups

Allplus Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment. e: smartbigbt@yahoo.com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOSTI South Asian men's support group, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. call: 07779 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 440 6161. Email: info@hgl.nhs.uk

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 658087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people. Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social, networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink parents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel, past & present. Helpline: 0870 40 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT: BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 643 0301

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in Service. Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone Tel: 07842 070 240

TIME OUT COUNSELLING - Coventry. For all LGBT+ people. Tel: 07936 525668

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email sally@outskirtgtg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtgtg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel: 0[illegible] 444[illegible]

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: 01543 41[illegible]3

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly Tel: 01902 425092

and contact details visit www.midlandszone.co.uk

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Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41

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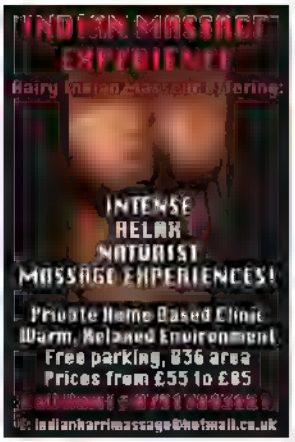

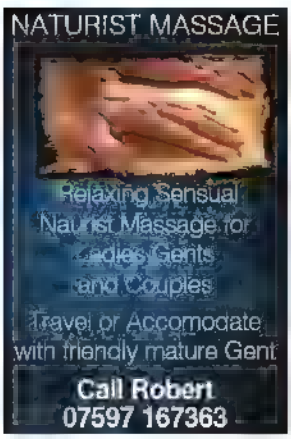

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127 George Road, Erdington
Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
Tel: 0116 367 3932
61 Bedford St,
South Leicester LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

UNIT 2
Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

CELTS
Tel 0116 285 6000
celts-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM
Tel 01332 209150
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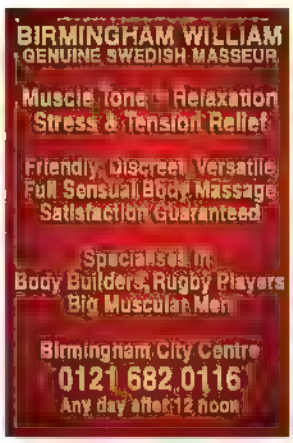

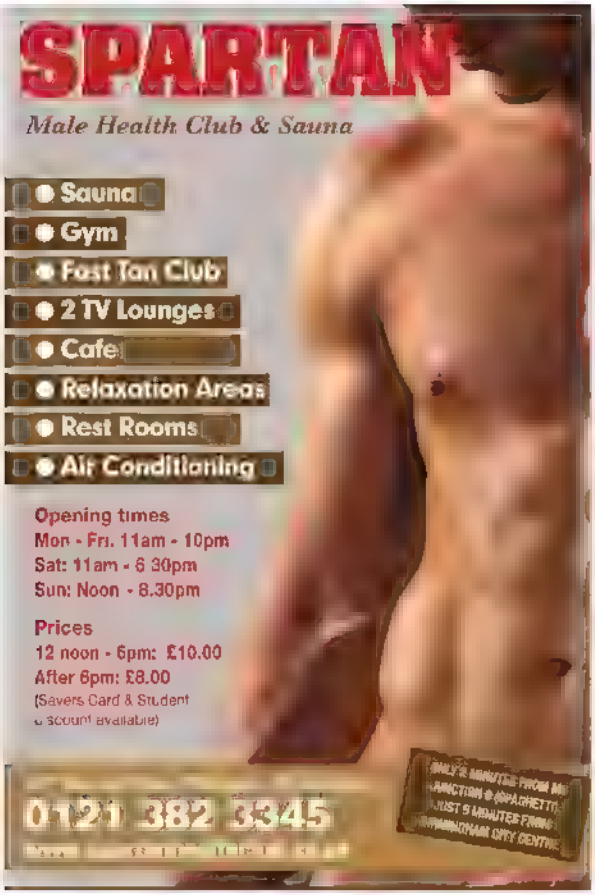
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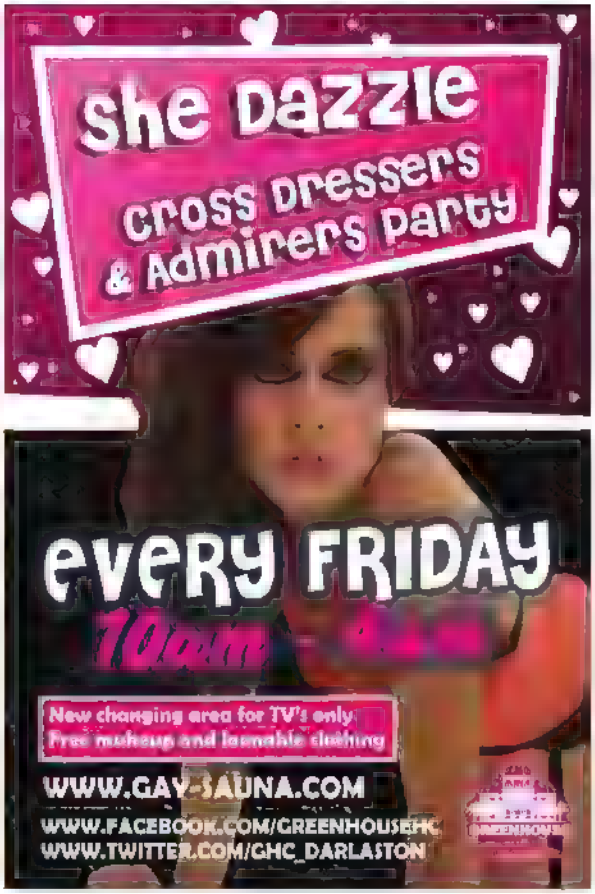
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ON THE BALL
with Steve Ball

Wedding bells

At a time when Islamic fundamentalism is all over the media - the horrors of ISIS, suicide bombers and Jihadist beheadings - there's no harm in reminding ourselves that religious zealots come from all faiths. Last month a Christian couple in Australia made the hilarious threat to get divorced if the country approves marriage rights for gay and lesbian Australians.

Nick Jensen and his wife Sarah have been married for ten years and have children together. But according to them, the Australian government will essentially be nullifying their marriage contract if it chooses to legalise same-sex marriage. So instead of being married they will live in sin so that the gays can't ruin their marriage.

However, it may not be as simple as that. The Australian Family Law Act states that an application for divorce will only be considered if the parties have separated and lived separately for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

The Australian parliament is set to follow Argentina, Mexico and Iceland and vote on marriage equality legislation by the end of the year. According to a recent survey, politicians and the Australian public remain divided on the issue. The story has provoked furious online debate and a number of spoof reports, including one about a couple promising to kill their children if gay couples are allowed to adopt!

But at the end of the day, as someone who got married last month, I find the attention-seeking view of Nick and Sarah Jensen far more disrespectful to the concept of marriage than me marrying the man I love.

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